A SPIRITUAL DIARY AND SOLILOQUIES.

BY

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LATE OF DUBLIN.

VOL. II.

"Let us ſearch and trace out our Ways, and return to the Lord." LAM. iii. 40.

"Know thyſelf."

"It is of the Lord's Mercy that we are not conſumed, becauſe his Compaſſions fail not." LAM. iii. 22.

"Who can underſtand his Errors? Cleanſe thou me from ſecret Faults." PSAL. xix. 12.

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SPIRITUAL DIARY

SOLILOQUIES.

BRITISH MUSEUM

A SPIRITUAL DIARY AND SOLILOQUIES.

First Month 1763.

OPENS my monthly retreat, being the $\frac{65}{70}$th year of my age.

The province meeting was held: I could do no more than pray for them, ſaying, Lord, be with thy faithful few!

The query was, what lack I yet?

Answ. More patience; for ſtill I am a little brittle: alſo more heavenly mindedneſs, being ever groveling towards earthly ſcience, notwithſtanding the loud calls to the heavenly: Lord, raiſe, leſt I periſh! Increaſe my love and faith! Give a contempt of this life! Why ſo fond of it?

2. A great languor appears in our ſlack gathering: Alſo,

I ſee no perfection, but the reverſe, in my own nature, and abundant cauſe for humiliation and ſelf contempt.

A dull view of the ſtate of profeſſors and prophane, and an humble hope of better company: for ſurely this is not what God deſigned us for: O Lord, prepare!

3. "Come out of Babylon," ſaid the Lord; and ſurely now he alſo ſaith, "Come out of the world and its ſpirit;" for a like participation of the plagues is annexed to a participation of the pleaſures of both: beware not only of gluttony and drunkenneſs, but even of the ſpirit of it, both publick and private, leſt thou be caſt into the ſea again (as in the parable) at the day of deciſion.

A crowd of buſineſs impends; take care that Jeſus be not loſt in it.

7. Behold the ſpirit of the world, and deſpiſe it; it greaſes the fat ſow on the breech, but neglects the lean one.

At a ſilent meeting—Go on, and view the dark ſide of the world; for it is neceſſary to do this often, in order to be preſerved from the allurements of it. In our medical profeſſion, the old, and thoſe whom we call lucky, are overloaded beyond their powers; whilſt others are deploring their fate in having nothing to do.

Again, behold their caprice in their eſteem of a man how precarious, how ill-founded! He that was an angel this year, may chance to be a devil the next.

Sol. It was clear to me this day, that as ſure as the herdſman talketh of bullocks, ſo doth the ſpiritual man of ſpiritual things; and that,

that, as we are profoundly ſilent in theſe, ſo we are a worldly minded people: But what then? Sow not among thorns, but rather among children.

8. Phyſick ſwallowed up divinity: ſee what a multitude of buſineſs does: it calls off from worſhip, and from quiet contemplation in the repoſe proper to old age: and,

What is the upſhot of all theſe labours? Not one whit more than propping up a tottering fabrick deſtined to the worms.

12. Held our monthly conference: we are not quite free from preſent ſin and infirmity, which is our grief and burden; and the remembrance of paſt ſins is embittering and humbling, notwithſtanding our aſſurance of pardon.

14. I ſee my betters in the ſpiritual houſe, even quite ſuperior in a holy activity in public prayer and preaching, heighths to which I cannot aſcend: ſuffice it to me to be a doorkeeper, or at moſt a ſcribe! but behold the ſtratagem of the enemy; 'Jack would be a 'gentleman,' or out of proper talent and character, and ſo marrs all: hence the many abuſes and perverſions of talents.

15. Impends much buſineſs: Lord, preſerve! I fly a little from the ſnare.

Phyſick and feaſting well nigh abſorbed the day, and ſo it proved an almoſt unchriſtian one.

It is now high time to be ripened for glory, as the corn for the granary, by the ſun of

God's love, and by the wind of his chaſtiſements.

A hard, but ſucceſsful, ſtruggle to get to both meetings: the firſt was animated by the miniſtry, and prayers of my old friend; the ſecond was ſilent, but luminous.

O for more of the love of God! O my leanneſs!

17. An agreeable account of ſome progreſs of a heart-work in the county of Wicklow: two ringleaders of mobs convicted in their conſciences, and flying from temptation.

19. Fourteen patients abſorbed my mattin: which I recovered in part in the evening, to my great conſolation, in the hiſtory of the progreſs of the goſpel in America.

21. O my barrenneſs on a late rencounter with a revolter! God gave an opportunity after.

Struggled hard, and got ſeaſonably to meeting: ſaw the evil effects of late coming: it encourages and multiplies the ſame evil by example, and is a robbery of God. A ſweet, luminous, ſilent meeting.

A clear viſion of this life, even a far more contemptible view of it, than in the days of my ignorance, even as a ſtage of temptations and great dangers.

To dwell with God is the point: but, how can this be without an entire union of my will to his!

23. Lord,

23. Lord, make me more ſpiritual in my converſe, and cauſe my light to ſhine therein more than ever it has done!

Left my temporals behind for Sion's ſake.

26. How brittle yeſterday on an unſeaſonable call and hunger? Where is long-ſuffering?

Answ. With the Lord. Lord, pity and pardon!

28. A clear viſion, at a ſilent meeting, of my long neglect of Chriſt, and that it is meer mercy that can ſave me.

God is now ſweetly, though ſlowly, drawing to a higher degree than in my Addreſs to the Captives, which was meat for babes, but the view of heaven is come nearer and clearer, and more moving; and truly it is more than high time it ſhould be ſo: and, ſurely, ſurely, there muſt be a better country than this.

Through the ſame divine goodneſs was I brought to a degree of contempt of this life, even as a ſtage of ſins, imperfections, temptations, dangers, labours and afflictions: Lord, ſupport and proſper!

29. I am indeed an object of God's ſingular long forbearance extended to theſe my declining days, having not been cut off in the time of idolatry and ignorance, when meer body was the grand and prevailing ſubject of my care, whilſt the ſoul lay uncultivated, and the ſuperior excellency of the

knowledge of Chriſt Jeſus lay buried under natural ſtudies, whoſe end is the meer body deſtined to deſtruction, and for ever excluded the kingdom of God. Awake then, O my ſoul! and fly upwards on the wings of faith and love.

On the ſtudy of foſſils.

The age is greatly improving in their inveſtigation of nature's works; and myſteries buried for ages are now diſcovered, and the clouds of ſuperſtition and ignorance are vaniſhing: there is a moſt entertaining variety and regularity in theſe terreſtrial productions, and the divine power and wiſdom is ſeen here: but is it not ſeen much more in grace?

The prayer of my heart now reigning is, that heaven may be above (in my view) even above earth and earthly ſtudies and concerns.

SECOND MONTH 1763.

1. Opens my monthly retreat, and ſolemn review.

O my ſtupid heart! Why no more weaned from this life, whilſt evidently on the brink of eternity? Lord, give a heart of fleſh!

More heavenly mindedneſs, more meekneſs, and more temperance is wanted.

2. O what a large harveſt in the large body of youth! but where are the labourers?

Diſcharged

Diſcharged my conſcience to ſome of theſe faithfully; but was buffeted by the power of darkneſs all the day after, prompting to pride. Lord, ſend forth more and better labourers!

6. My patience was overcome on an occaſion when fatigued and hungry. Here is an alloy of ſin: Lord, pity and pardon!

7. A groundleſs ſurmiſe broached, which diſturbed me a good deal; but God gave the philoſopher's ſtone, turning it into a bleſſing.

9. Sixteen patients abſorbed my mattin; but I redeemed my time in the evening, in reading a comment on the New Teſtament; on which occaſion there appeared too much ground for this awful ſuſpicion, viz. Surely, ſurely, there are but few real believers in Chriſt in the world!

A good deal of work in reviewing and digeſting the labours of my youth.

11. I had the honour of being the firſt that aſſembled, and the time was bleſſed to me: I was brought to what is beyond words.

A Goſpel call from a dear ſiſter to the diſperſed of Judah. Truly the goodneſs of God to an unworthy people is beyond human comprehenſion!

O the folly and wickedneſs of the world, both plebeians and patricians: here I am labouring at the medical oar, but they will not aſſiſt; but every one flies to his gains from his quarter: Lord, look down!

14. A weighty and pertinent exhortation to a circumſpect conduct in our families: O

may

may this be the happy æra on which all moroſeneſs may be exterminated from my borders!

A whiſper, that as I am now contemplating the ſeaſons and bodily diſeaſes, there is a ſubject of infinitely more importance, even the effects of the ſeaſons on the manners of men, viz. The preſent calm of eaſe and riches is attended with forgetfulneſs of God: alſo, the effects of the inordinate purſuit of natural ſcience, even leading to a neglect of Chriſt as Chriſt, and the myſteries of the kingdom, the knowledge of God in Chriſt in ourſelves, and for ourſelves: and if Chriſt be thy Lord, ſee that thou obey him: his precepts are plain, but O how broad, how extenſive, how hard to fleſh and blood! Lord, ſend forth thy light and thy truth, and thy conſuming fire!

View not only the celeſtial teſtimony to the incarnation of the Son of God, and the deſcent of the Holy Ghoſt in fire on the apoſtles, but view alſo the glorious goſpel light breaking forth from amidſt a Babyloniſh darkneſs. Theſe phænomena are to be ſolved no other way than by the love of God in Chriſt. O how ſhall we eſcape if we neglect ſo great ſalvation, and thou in particular, who art favoured with a cloud of witneſſes!

Grace triumphed in giving the preference of ſpiritual to natural ſtudies.

15. Too late at meeting in God's eſtimation, though not in man's.

Too moroſe in the evening: O indwelling corruption! Look up to Jeſus, and view him

in

in his heavenly pattern of meekneſs and lowneſs! Is not he the vine? But am I a branch, yea, or nay? Cloſe work! who ſhall ſtand this teſt? To God's mercy in Chriſt I fly, but will ſtill continue, not to indulge, but fight againſt every remnant of ſin and corruption.

18. A ſweet time, firſt in an internal ſong of praiſe heard by the Eternal only, for enlightening and enlivening my old age: 2dly, in a ſweet and pertinent miniſtry, breathing forth a ſymphonick ſound, with a ſpirit of humility and true brotherly regard to one another, and to their predeceſſors.

19. Good news of the revival of Chriſtian diſcipline in Briſtol.

20. At afternoon meeting, heavy to ſleep, but the fire of the altar not out.

21. Pointing to Chriſt, and not to themſelves, remains to be the peculiar beauty and glory of our miniſtry.

25. At a ſilent meeting; a day of renewal of love in weaning from this world, and particularly from the inordinate love of natural ſcience; and, after all, to know much is not thy province, but chiefly to love and adore.

27. Holy vigilance is the point in which I yet greatly fail; behold, the reduplication of the precept, "What I ſay unto you, I ſay unto all, Watch."

28. 30 min. paſt 3. Wakened with a bright irradiation in a view of this paſſage: "I go to prepare a place for you, that where I am, ye

ye may be alſo:" and roſe immediately to worſhip.

THIRD MONTH 1763.

1. I do not love the Lord enough, becauſe I do not fear him enough, particularly in eating and drinking: Lord, increaſe my love, and wean me from the world more, and particularly from the ſpecious glitterings of natural ſcience!

3. The hope of heaven is the ſupport, refuge, and comfort of old age: here the Chriſtian ſhines beyond the Heathen, and Chriſt Jeſus beyond all their gods: cloath us, Lord, with the proper robes, and then come when thou pleaſeſt.

4. A bleſſed ſilent meeting, with ſweet drawings of the Father's love, and fervent deſire that he will lift up his ſpirit as a ſtandard againſt the inundation of worldly riches and glory, from which I fly: aſſiſt and direct my flight, good Lord!

5. Divers croſs events, to which my patience did not riſe adequate.

6. Got to both meetings with a hard ſtruggle: the afternoon was ſilent, but the fire was on the altar.

1. Behold the ſnares laid in fame and friendſhip! Lord, preſerve, or I ſhall be catched, for I am very weak.

A ſimple woman, who is a faithful heavenly minded diſciple, I prefer before myſelf.

9. Held

9. Held our monthly conference, which gave me a juſt and humbling ſenſe of myſelf thus: we ſtill continue in a ſtate of warfare: we have ſome lively ſallies of faith ſometimes, he to a degree of tranſport, I in a ſoberer way: he takes more pains than I, and has a far greater advantage in the communion of ſaints, of which I have but a very ſmall ſhare.

13. Soul, cheer up: thou art the object of envy and malice, both in the natural and ſpiritual world; theſe are appendages of real merit; God ſanctify, and give patience and long forbearance!

At meeting—a clear viſion of my moral righteouſneſs as filthy rags, my natural ſtudies having been contaminated by pride.

What lack I yet!

Answ. More meekneſs, and more heavenly mindedneſs, to be the diſtinguiſhing beauties of my old age.

16. A viſit from a penitent awakened by the miniſtry of S. F. Lent him a book.

O what light is diffuſed through theſe countries by Law's Spirit of Prayer, or Prayer of the Heart, deſcribed and magnified by that author, according to its dignity, and ſo remarkably exemplified in this deſpiſed people, among whom my lot is caſt!

18. The meeting ſilent, but ſweet.

20. In heavineſs yeſterday, on account of the puiſſance of my ſpiritual enemies, among which the fleſh appears the moſt dangerous, being inſeparable. O the ſpirit of drunken-

neſs

neſs and gluttony! It muſt be ſlain yet effectually: ſo ſlay it, good Lord: let thine axe, indeed, be laid to the root of the tree!

Sol. Falling into converſation immediately after meeting hurts, and ſo do our new-faſhioned committees after meeting: O the many avenues open to hurt the precious ſeed that may have been ſown! Soul, awake: it is a dangerous time.

23. World, I deſpiſe thee: our feaſts are mingled with gall: our diſputations manifeſt our errors, and the various opinions of men in naturals and ſpirituals ſhew the ſea of uncertainties, and the [a] *mobile vulgus*, both great and ſmall, in the language of ſcripture compared to waters: look up then, above all, to the glorious hope of the goſpel, the happier regions prepared for them whoſe robes ſhall have been waſhed.

27. Not enough quickened to contempt of this world: not enough pierced by the late loud calls of Providence in the late deaths of my brother, and old faithful ſervant.

Who more weak, more ſtupid than I?

28. A ſong in the night.

30. Anecdote in the Devil's hiſtory: that markets are frequently held on the firſt day of the week, and ſhops open in many parts of this [b] *Inſula Sanctorum*.

[a] The changeable multitude.

[b] Iſland of Saints.

FOURTH

FOURTH MONTH. 1763.

3. [c] *Solus* in the gallery, and deſerted in ſpirit ſo far, that I was tempted to leave the place; yet ſtill prayer was made, but under great weakneſs and oppreſſion. A cloudy atmoſphere had a ſhare in this matter.

The afternoon ſilent, but very ſweet in the attraction of the Father's love to objects above fleſh and blood, even the decking the inward man, and adorning it as a bride for the bridegroom, that there may be nothing in my will which may in any degree claſh with his; and let the haſtening midnight cry ſtir up to get more oil in the lamp.

4. Be not caſt down, O my ſoul: remember who ſteers the ſhip: thou haſt ſeen his wiſdom, goodneſs, and power in nature, and in grace alſo: he ſeeth the worſt ſtate, as well as the beſt, and undoubtedly all things ſhall terminate to his glory: put thy truſt in him, who knoweth them that are, and that are not his. The riſe and fall of ſocieties, though myſteries to us, are not ſo to him. Keep faithful, as much as poſſible, to thy preſent high profeſſion, even as one of the ſelect, and diſtinguiſhed as ſuch by a habit and ſpeech peculiar hung out to the world.

5. God gave zeal and diſcretion in ſupporting Chriſtian diſcipline.

[c] Alone.

8. Soul, awake: the world ſmiles on thee, but there is witchcraft in this look: O Lord, help, or I ſhall be beguiled!

12. A clear viſion of my effectual converſion from nature to grace, eſpecially ſince my viſitation A. D. 1754; and ſang to the Lord on that account: but this was added; ſanctification is a gradual work, and not yet completed: Lord, finiſh it, even in eating, drinking, and ſtudying; all to be conſecrated to thy glory!

A diſtreſſing ſilent meeting, through ſickneſs diſabling me from fixing my attention.

13. A ſpiritual anecdote. A certain ſpiritual phyſician kept journals of his ſoul-ſick patients, in the ſame manner as I do of the bodily ſick, and to ſolid advantage: O what a pigmy am I? Greater is the leaſt in the kingdom than I. Lord, wean from nature and its deceitful beauties, and lift up to thoſe of grace, yet more and more!

14. I cannot quit my phyſical engagements, and go on with the miniſtry: I muſt move in a lower ſphere.

On reading a miſſionary's labours among the Indians, a fine contraſt of the glory of the Chriſtian religion compared to that of the Pagans.

15. Bleſſed be the Lord for the communion of ſaints upon earth, in this ſingle inſtance: one of thoſe I have the honour of converſing with chuſes diſſolution, and to be with Chriſt.

16. A

16. A review of my labours of many years in natural hiſtory, and a digeſt of them opened: Lord, direct and preſerve from pride, raſhneſs, and precipitancy!

A vexatious, unſeaſonable call: I anſwered it, bleſſed be the Lord, altho' with muttering.

17. The firſt meeting was luminous, the ſecond moſtly dark, deſerted, and uncomfortable, both moſtly ſilent.

18. Hear the voice of God in the two late deaths in one houſe, ſaying, "Ye have no continuing city here."

20. Sick of the world in church and ſtate. Surely there muſt be a better: Lord, give a meetneſs for that better aſſociation! Mean time faith muſt be tried, and patience exerciſed.

21. Inadvertency in the abſurdity of *theeing*, contrary to my own doctrine.

22. At a ſilent meeting was in the mount in communion with God: all natural knowledge ſhall be deſpiſed as droſs and dung, in compariſon of the knowledge of God in Chriſt. O thou pitiful, groveling mortal, who art buſying thyſelf with the epidemick diſeaſes of the body, and moſt of thy life haſt made them thy principal, reigning object, neglecting the ſpiritual epidemick diſeaſe of unbelief in Chriſt, which has had a far greater ſpread than any bodily diſeaſe ever had! The leaſt child in grace and faith in Chriſt is nearer the kingdom than thou. But I will follow thee, ſo help Lord!

In the mean time the following providences, even ſpecial providences, and divers of them unſought for, appeared, as ſignal favours, tending to my awakening, and to the promoting my Chriſtian progreſs, viz.

1. Who guided the hand of that pious lady, who ſupplied me and other phyſicians of the city with the printed Evidences of the Chriſtian Religion, in order to our conviction as unbelievers, or mine at leaſt, as a weak believer?

2. Who guided that hand, that without charges ſupplied me with divers illuminating comments on the Old and New Teſtament, to the enamouring my heart with thoſe writings in the juſt preference of them to all others? And,

3. Who guided that hand, that preſented me with the hiſtorical collection of the ſucceſs of the goſpel, in the revival of vital Chriſtianity among abſolute heathens and Chriſtian heathens?

All theſe were ſignal favours done me.

23. Behold medicine exerciſed even with the utmoſt ſucceſs: it is only protracting the doom of the patient for a little while; for the irreverſible decree is, "Thou ſhalt die."

24. Viſited a country meeting with a miniſter, who, knowing his buſineſs, declines any viſit, or much converſe before meeting.

25. The miniſter ſhone at meeting, and I held up his hands as an elder.

Thither

Thither I fled from patients, but they followed me: this was irkſome, but I ſubmitted with a little reluctance.

27. Purſued the index to my foſſils, wherein abundant labour appears: God gave temperance, and a reſolution no longer to collect, but to digeſt; the night haſtening.

28. O my ſtupid heart! Looked back on occaſion of ſhifting my lodging, wherein I ſpent twenty-ſix years, which are but as yeſterday; and ſuch will be the remainder allotted thee, even the bounds of thy habitation, known to God only, whom therefore I worſhip, and ſay: "O give to redeem the time, of which ſo much has been devoted to nature, ſo little to grace!"

Behold, the world is under thy feet: thou haſt no need of anxiety after its treaſures. Lord, keep me modeſt and humble! Prevent precipitancy and raſh judgment in things natural!

31. This day was the nail hit upon the head in a ſolid, ſelf-denying miniſtry, in driving the hearers home to God's gift in themſelves, the peculiar glory of the faithful miniſtry among us; and withal, a rough admonition, in drawing a parallel between the Athenians and us, as ſeekers after novelties.

This was ſeconded by his fellow labourer, in a truly pertinent application of that text, "Ceaſe from man, whoſe breath is in his noſtrils;" and I was thankful that my God

had brought me to this happy ſtate at our meetings, even of depending on God alone.

FIFTH MONTH 1763.

1. Divers living inſtances of babes in grace, incentives to higher degrees of love and zeal, who, much earlier in life, have worſhipped God as God, even as ſupreme, making their temporals give way to ſpirituals, ſo as to have but little thought of the firſt in compariſon of the laſt.

Again, tho' the many deſpiſe the calls of grace, and the peculiar privileges of our Sion, yet God, even thy God, hath given thee a heart to prize them: adored be his ſingular and unmerited goodneſs!

Satan prompts to ſpiritual pride: I bid him march off, and take it to himſelf.

The itinerant viſiters and miniſters are burning and ſhining lights, in abundant mercy, ſent to awaken an indolent, unworthy people.

2. My progreſs in the Chriſtian journey has been ſnail-like.

3. Spoke a word of encouragement to my brethren elders, from a cordial ſenſe of the favours beſtowed on us at this and the laſt meeting; but Satan buffeted me afterwards.

A ſweet bleſſed day, and the meeting of miniſters and elders was crowned with divine wiſdom and goodneſs, and a holy fervour.

7. A qualm at meeting from indigeſtion; thence inſtability in thought, and the meeting ſcarce of any profit to me; but the afternoon ſweetly ſupplied the defects of the forenoon, in a ſong of praiſe and ſweet intercourſe with my Maker.

9. Content, joyous, and cheerful, with a ſweet ſenſe of the love of God in Chriſt.

Belated at meeting, after a vigorous ſtruggle for the contrary: family religion was there righteouſly recommended.

11. The glory is not yet departed from our Iſrael, nor the flaming fire from the lips of our miniſters, nor the ſpirit of love and wiſdom from our elders, in regard to Chriſtian diſcipline.

Behold, death and eternity, and a doom juſt and impartial are at the door: Lord, be merciful, or I periſh!

What lack I yet? More heavenly mindedneſs, I am ſure, and more contempt of natural ſcience, in compariſon of the ſpiritual.

Still groveling towards the concerns of fleſh and blood, until by a holy violence I be lifted up to thoſe of the ſpirit. Shall ſuch a one be proud?

Held our monthly conference: I hope we are growing in grace and the love of God, but ſtill not without temptations and infirmities; and I not without ſin, and abundant reaſon for crying out for mercy.

O the induſtry of the members of a certain

ſociety!

ſociety! but, O our idleneſs! "He that ſoweth ſparingly ſhall reap ſparingly."

12. A ſweet glimmering proſpect, that God is opening to me a new path, in occaſional viſits to penitents and others. O, let me be joined with the few yet alive in theſe degenerate days!

15. I ſaw the infidelity of the age I live in, of which I have alſo partaken; but am now, by the ſpecial grace of God, emerging, I ſay, even from infidelity in Chriſt, and likewiſe infidelity with reſpect to the agency of evil ſpirits: for, as to the laſt, I now believe it, from the many ſpiritual buffetings which I underwent of late, to which, in the days of leſs fervour and trial, I was a ſtranger.

The morning meeting ſhocking, with ſickneſs, and the fumes of indigeſtion; however, I ſat it with a degree of reſignation; and the afternoon was much better.

16. Lord, if I be not a knife among the utenſils of the ſpiritual houſe, make me a whetſtone, and carry on to occaſional viſits!

20. A continued ſtruggle between John the Naturaliſt, and John the Divine: in the laſt reſpect, many a ſilly woman is before me, yea, far before me.

A bleſſed ſilent meeting, in a viſion of the glory of this goſpel-day, in a cloſe view of impending eternity, and the ſweet hope of a happy one, with a voluntary renunciation of the world, and all anxiety about medical buſineſs: for, indeed, what am I but one of the

few

few odd ones eſcaped from the grave longer than uſual? I therefore retire by degrees to the country.

27. Soul, awake! thou haſt viſited periodically, now viſit occaſionally: thou haſt invited the rich, now invite the poor; for the rich have too generally refuſed: Lord, help, and raiſe up thoſe of low degree, and faithful labourers, even for thy own glory's ſake!

Something of a ſeeming impulſe to go down into the valley, in a holy heavenly exerciſe of viſits to the children, the weak and fooliſh, and the poor, and even groſs ſinners: remember that the call formerly was not to many mighty, many rich or noble, but to the poor: and that the Lord himſelf hath pronounced, that it is difficult for the rich to enter the kingdom, and that it is unſucceſsful to ſow among thorns.

Afternoon meeting extremely dull: ſleep beſet me; but light and truth triumphed in the ſequel.

28. A ſweet luminous proſpect of the heavenly Canaan: reſolved to be ſtill more retired from the concerns of fleſh and blood, ſo long, ſo predominantly purſued, in the paths of an unjuſtifying moral, not evangelical, righteouſneſs, and to aſſociate more with the heavenly few.

A bright morning, but a dark evening: drank too much inadvertently, which ſpoiled my family-duty. I will go down to the fountain, and waſh before I offer: Lord, forgive this

this treſpaſs upon thy altar! All this proceeds from a defect in my love of God; for more of this would have produced more fear, even of that fear which is a fountain of life to preſerve from the ſnares of death.

29. My morning and evening meetings, as of late, were diſtreſſed with reſtleſſneſs: but God's adorable goodneſs was diſplayed in the miniſtry of a woman raiſed up from among ourſelves: the call was eſpecially to youth; but the axe was laid to the root of the tree in theſe words, applicable to the elders, whoſe portion is this earth: "Ye are taken up with other lovers."

29. A ſpiritual viſit to a penitent, with counſel and prayer for him, well received.

SIXTH MONTH 1763.

1. Held our monthly conference: we hope we grow in grace; yet not without infirmities, and an alloy of ſin, which God gives us hearts to deplore.

The youth's meeting was ſweetly conducted in the miniſtry of a woman. Scarce any fathers, Aarons, or Hurs, to hold up the hands of Moſes: Lord, pity and bleſs the youth; for this day's work gave proof of thy loving them with a love far beyond human fathom!

2. Still more patience and more temperance are wanting: Lord, give them!

Bleſs

Bleſs the Lord, O my ſoul, that in theſe degenerate days he is raiſing up and preſerving a faithful miniſtry, even of a younger generation, tho' thinly ſown: but ſurely we are not worthy, even of this.

Performed three church viſits on the diſcipline proper to tythe-payers; in which the waters of jealouſy were adminiſtered, weakly, meekly, but I hope faithfully.

5. A viſit to a poor ſpiritual Tyro, in a ſpirit of meekneſs and love.

8. From ſelf-conceit, from haſty concluſions, from the ſpirit of drunkenneſs and gluttony, good Lord, preſerve!

In heavineſs on account of invitations to feaſts.

9. One faſt to real improvement, with a demonſtration of our imperfections and errors.

10. Light and joyous after yeſterday's faſting. Worſhipped in ſilence, in humiliation, under a ſenſe of my great weakneſs, barrenneſs, and brittleneſs; but a glimmering of hope appeared by and by, tending to an eſtabliſhment, with an effectual refutation of the diabolical inſinuation, that there is no worſhip without ſpeaking.

11. In our preſent exerciſe, the apoſtolick precepts of bearing one another's burdens, ſupporting the weak, and warning the unruly, are executed pretty honeſtly, though weakly.

Demas and his company compaſs ſea and land to get a penny; but J. W. the believer, and

and others of the like ſpirit, compaſs ſea and land to gain ſouls: theſe are enthuſiaſts in Demas's ſenſe, but thoſe are the real fools and madmen in the ſenſe of every true believer: and O my ſoul, what art thou? A late-born believer, placed in the midſt of a revolting generation, who have addreſſed the captives made by the world's ſpirit. Good Lord, ſet me at liberty, leſt I periſh with them!

12. Still the ſtream of the miniſtry continues to run to the youth.

The ordaining of elders among us is lately and very rightly introduced; a moſt uſeful and neceſſary ſupplement to the withdrawing of an outward miniſtry, and help to the preſent miniſtry: but it is worth remembering what accompanied this work formerly, which I think is as neceſſary now; viz. Prayer with faſting, the laſt a practice we are of late years too little acquainted with.

13. A cloſe attention to kennel-raking in the exerciſe of Chriſtian diſcipline.

My poor fund of patience was well nigh exhauſted by unſeaſonable calls.

17. Sleepy at meeting, with a cloudy atmoſphere; but in the ſequel, witneſſed that which is above words, the heavenly power drawing towards the renovation of the divine image upon my ſoul, bleſſed be God!

19. Hard ſtruggles between meetings and patients; though moſtly paupers, bleſſed be the Lord, in whoſe eyes the ſerving of them

is more glorious than the ſplendor of an equipage.

20. "Look unto Jeſus," was the call this morning, and conſider him well, who ſaid, "I ſearch the heart."

21. A ſurprizing and delightful ſcene opened in the myſteries of grace, even in a holy providential improvement on our Chriſtian diſcipline, in eſtabliſhing certain queries, and a manifeſt improvement in that important work, in the nomination of elders, and a more regular procedure otherwiſe, as alſo a judicious abridgment of the queries: all this I call a holy ſtratagem, counterworking the operations of the powers of darkneſs.

22. Scarcely a word of Chriſt to day.

24. 30 min. paſt 4. Soul, awake: thy ſun is ſetting: the judge is at the door. I will humble myſelf under a ſenſe of paſt ſins, as well as preſent infirmities, particularly the quickneſs to anger.

O what ſlaves to the world do I ſee almoſt all around me! and O how favoured am I!

Some indolence about an exact obſervance of the hour appointed for divine worſhip: how broad, Lord, thy law! how weak, how imperfect my obedience!

25. On a church-expedition, on the road, left the drink behind me, contrary to the Devil's maxim; and yet, found I had drank too much, the head being leſs clear than it ought to be in the ſpiritual ſervice impending. Verily, the gate is ſtraight.

28. 40 min. paſt 5. Who ſo favoured as I! I will deſcend into the valley, and bemoan my barrenneſs. How many thouſands are deſtitute of the ſpiritual advantages conferred on me; and who, for aught I ſee, would have made far greater improvements of them!

On the death of a moſt aſſiduous modern ſaint and miniſter, who has left monuments of his holy fire, at which my ſoul kindled a little, to the following purpoſe: "Thou and ſome others have ploughed the ſea, and traverſed the land to gain ſouls; I to collect plants and foſſils: the leaſt of you in God's ſight is incomparably greater than I; however, Lord, give me a place in thy houſe, if it be but that of a door-keeper!"

The Chriſtian teſtimony againſt open immorality was upheld, though under diſcouragement, and indirect oppoſition.

SEVENTH MONTH 1763.

2. O Lord, preſerve me as a ſcribe natural and ſpiritual, from raſhneſs and ſelf-conceit!

Held our monthly conference to mutual edification: it is indeed a communion of ſouls, wherein we ſympathize with one another in our ſeveral temptations, and our languid faith and love are excited.

3. O the profuſion of the divine favours upon me, even more than there is room to receive,

receive, particularly in exhibiting close to my view divers blessed way-marks in the lives of modern saints, living and powerful incentives to higher degrees of faith and love!

Sol. I am indeed a door keeper in regard to exclusions and admissions; an awful post! but, begin with the door of thy own lips, with a holy vigilance in regard to what is given forth from them, and what is admitted by them.

I abhorred myself at meeting, being scarce able to keep awake: I also charge myself with want of fervour and vigilance at other times. O, where is thy watching unto prayer, like thy Lord, in the night! Truly, thou hast enemies enough to encounter: remember the expression and spirit of it, even crying mightily to God for preservation and deliverance.

Why not appoint a day of humiliation, fasting, and prayer, for our present desertions and desolations? Lord, direct!

5. At meeting I was encouraged by a lively hope, that God will satisfy my persevering hunger and thirst after righteousness.

9. Blessed be the Lord, he hath unstopped my deaf ear, even enabled me to hear his voice and awakening trumpet in the dispensation of his providences, particularly in the death of my brother, and of a late fellow-scribe.

Sol. Who hath such leisure, who so many incentives to holiness, and who so barren in proportion as I?

Amidſt my enquiries into the epidemick diſeaſes of the body, it was queried, What is the prevailing epidemick of the ſouls of thy countrymen?

Answ. Unbelief and ingratitude, of which I alſo have partaken.

12. Robberies frequent, and murders alſo; ſome of them from our corrupted ſeminary, dwindled of late, by the righteous courſe of Providence, from 800 to 450.

16. We kennel-rakers are menaced with bodily abuſe for adminiſtering the waters of jealouſy: Lord, ſupport! Bleſſed be God, here is an honeſt, impartial ſpirit.

17. O my ſtupid heart! Death is at the door, and yet ſtill am I groveling in nature too much: Lord, lift up, as thou didſt ſinking Peter!

At meeting, a ſweet and bright illumination, viz. That whereas there are two manſions in the other country, one for ſaints, the other for the Devil and his angels; now as I love thoſe of the firſt claſs here on earth, I humbly hope that I ſhall join them in heaven.

18. 30 min. paſt 5. "Fleſh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom," was the watch word of this day, tending to ſlacken all natural purſuits.

Lord, preſerve in the impending hour of compotation!

This is a Bedlam of a world: doubtleſs, there is an infinitely better world than this.

21. 15 min. paſt 4. An humbling time: many imperfections, and ſome errors are publickly cenſured in my late laborious work, which I am endeavouring as publickly to correct; yet, after all, there will be no perfection: by all thy ſearching thou canſt not find out God. Lord, give humility, fear, and caution, and direct my labours to thy glory, and the good of my neighbour! and may I remember that the leaſt babe in grace is greater than the greateſt naturaliſt, as heaven is above earth!

24. In the country to excellent purpoſe; it was a ſerene morning within and without. Grace prevailed over nature, in reſpect to a juſt preference of ſpirituals to temporals, bleſſed be the Lord!

I was in the ancient valley of humiliation the week paſt.

Little publick ſpirit: I can hardly get yoke-fellows in nature, in medicine, nor in grace: Lord, bring to that better company, that of angels, and the ſpirits of juſt men made perfect!

At meeting: do leſs in nature, more in grace.

A dreadful proſpect: one of our few pillars threatens to withdraw.

26. I was favoured with a degree of acceſs to the throne of grace, but my ancient brother came nearer than I: I perceived clearly the great benefit of ſociety, both religious and civil, contrary to the monaſtick ſcheme.

27. Soul, remember thy ſtation, and tremble: a judge had need be very circumſpect: I ſay again, tremble; for here is an uncircumciſed generation: it is not poſſible for meer man to ſtand againſt and over them.

28. Sol. Whilſt thou art buſy in claſſing of foſſils, the goſpel-miniſters are claſſing of men, who will finally be claſſed into two *genera*, ſheep and goats, companions of angels of light, or of darkneſs: wherefore,

Now is the accepted time, now the day of preparation, leſt thou be claſſed with the fiends in the day approaching.

A fertile day in nature, but not one word of Chriſt! and, indeed, where is there, except at meetings? and even there rarely enough.

31. More temperance, and more heavenly mindedneſs was the cry of this morning, and God gave courage to ſit before the company in ſolemn ſilence in the afternoon.

EIGHTH MONTH 1763.

1. O my groveling heart, ever prone to earthly things, and by a holy violence only drawn upwards! Good Lord, ſend forth thy holy fire!

Held our monthly conference: our aims, views, and proſpects agree; but my brother is better than I, and partakes more of the bread of conſolation.

An

An anecdote: A holy league is ſet up, even for a ſpecial prayer every day at noon to the Lord of the harveſt, that he will ſend forth more labourers. I am ſure we want them. Would there be any crime in joining in this petition, in ſeaſon and out of ſeaſon?

2. Highly delighted in digeſting the labours of my youth.

At a ſilent meeting poſſeſſed my ſoul in ſweetneſs.

5. At meeting the fire was in, and ventilated by two ſtrange miniſtring friends, both alive, weighty, and pertinent, with a call to the youth in particular.

8. Look back to the beloved diſciple, who argues from the love of God, in ſending his Son to be a propitiation for our ſins, that we ought to love one another: now in the above miſſions we ſee that God ſtill exerciſeth long forbearance to ſinners: and ſhall not we, who are but pardoned ſinners, exerciſe the ſame temper towards them? If we are his children, we ſhall.

9. Humbled at meeting in a clear ſight of my vileneſs in the Lord's preſence, ſeeing clearly, that in me dwelleth no good thing; and that whatever good I have or do is by the drawings of the Father, and this with a violence to my natural biaſs, which tends to the earth and earthly things: but the Lord is bountiful, thus to reach forth a hand to lift me up.

At mens meeting diſcharged my conſcience.

11. O the Majeſty of Chriſt, as diſplayed in the firſt chapter of the Revelation! John was now quite beyond himſelf, and his ſtile is altered accordingly; yet, behold the humble epithet he gives of himſelf, viz. "Your brother and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jeſus Chriſt:" and truly this epithet is alſo applicable to the ſaints of this day; they are alſo companions in tribulation and patience.

12. A ſilent meeting, and precious; in which the word of the Lord to me was, Let thy day's work keep pace with thy day: let thy light ſhine more and more unto the perfect day: for the judge is at the door.

14. Read Gill on the Revelation, and particularly on the church of Epheſus, which loſt her firſt love; the ſtate alſo aſſuredly of us, as a city and ſociety: Soul, tremble.

A church conference with an impenitent delinquent: truth reigned.

15. O the bleſſing of the Holy Scriptures, and theſe inſtructive comments on them: and, O for a ſuitable improvement of a favour not enjoyed by thouſands!

17. The late ſolemn renewal of the queries by the viſit of our preſbytery, and the tacit approbation of each meeting of the people, by ſubmitting to anſwer each of them, is a kind of ſolemn league and covenant, and to the faithful it is ſo; Lord, awaken to the ſpirit of the laws!

He

He who forſakes his worſhip, to indulge his belly, is an idolater, his God being his belly.

18. More love, more meekneſs, more temperance in eating and drinking, was the watch-word of this day: O how ſtraight the gate, how narrow the way! Lord, help, or I periſh!

The advice to the church of Sardis was, to be watchful, or awake: we alſo here are ſpiritually aſleep: Lord, look on us, and preſerve my ſoul from the epidemical contagion, leſt I periſh with the multitude!

20. A weighty exhortation, and well adapted, from a poor ſiſter, in a reproof of the prevailing neglect of parents in bringing their children to meetings at home and abroad, from thoſe words, "Train up a child," &c.

God drew me on in the holy race; and I rejoiced that I could ſay honeſtly, that I am not the object of the "Woe to them that are at eaſe in Sion!"

20. The afternoon ſilent; but the fire burnt lively.

22. At a ſilent meeting God gave me to ſee this as the hour of my temptation, and I humbly hope will preſerve, even from the inordinate purſuit of natural ſcience.

At the mens meeting, truth triumphed, bleſſed be the Lord!

Much ſuperfluity and extravagance appears in buying books never to be read.

24. God gave me to ſee ſome remains of hypocriſy, even that I have been more in words than

than in life: thus in the view of God and man am I contemptible! Where then is room for pride? Lucifer, avaunt!

25. Not a word of Chriſt yeſterday, but all nature, and nothing of grace; and I am an hour in arrear to day: God be merciful!

Gill on the Apocalypſe is very clear as to the prediction of Mahomet, even as the eaſtern Antichriſt, as well as of the weſtern: truly this is wonderful! What book like the ſcriptures? Doth not God love his people, thus to forewarn?

Sol. There are indeed many obſcure things in the Revelations, though others are clear, and particularly with regard to Babylon; but we are unworthy of more light, and theſe obſcurities ſerve for an exerciſe of our faith and patience. Our Lord ſaith to Thomas, "Bleſſed are they who have not ſeen, and yet have believed."

26. God gave ſtrength to exerciſe a holy violence with regard to natural ſtudies this day.

A ſpirit of integrity ſhone in the mens meeting, in the exerciſe of our holy diſcipline on a delinquent this day.

Murders in Dublin multiplied.

28. Lord, give the ſpirit, in order to a walk conſiſtent with my writings!

29. Sol. Here is a large harveſt, a multitude of youth grown up, and moſtly unknown to me: Lord, ſend forth labourers!

30. Good

30. Good goſpel-news from Briſtol and Norwich, viz. That God is viſiting their youth.

NINTH MONTH 1763.

1. Sol. If the revelation had been clearer with reſpect to Babylon, it is probable the dark power would have ſuppreſſed it; whereas now it is clear enough to unprejudiced minds.

Held our monthly conference. My brother continues joyous, proceeds in a contempt of the world, and ſeems to long to be diſſolved. I lag behind: he enjoys far greater helps in the ſocial way than I. He is a ſtranger to the world, which I am not enough, being engaged in honour to ſerve it, both as naturaliſt and phyſician; occupations, however, in the view of heaven, as much inferior to thoſe of miniſters, or even of the leaſt ſervant of the church, as earth is to heaven.

3. I rather exceed in ſolids at dinner: nature wants but little: more faſting is expedient.

5. In making many books, and in natural ſearches, there is no end: let thy moderation appear; the Lord is at hand.

7. At the ſchool-meeting was led forth for the benefit of the children more than my own: ſome buffetings of Satan ſucceeded; but leſs than formerly.

10. One

10. One theme at our publick meeting for worſhip at the province: that God will work wonders on the deſpiſers, and bring to nought thoſe things that are, by things that are not. Amen.

11. A diſmal proſpect in Dublin: two principal pillars about to remove: Lord, look down, if it be thy holy will.

13. I am confirmed more and more, that God's call is at this time more particularly to the poor and deſpiſed among men, and to children.

16. At meeting: O my groveling heart! Lord, ſtretch forth thy hand, or I periſh!

Write this ſacred truth upon thy heart: 'As much as thou haſt deſcended into the earth in ſearch of nature's myſteries, ſo much muſt thou aſcend in ſearch of thoſe of grace.'

I will begin now: ſo help, Lord!

Remember, "Fleſh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom."

I will bleſs thee, Lord, that thou didſt not cut me off in my idolatry.

21. Read the deſcription of the New Jeruſalem: let it wean from the love of this earth! even the account given of that city, Rev. xxi. "where ſhall be no more death, neither ſorrow, nor crying, neither any more pain;" and conſequently no phyſick here daily wanted to palliate the pains, and protract the deſtined death of every ſon of Adam the firſt, but Adam the ſecond ſaith, "He that liveth and believeth in me ſhall never die,"

John

John xi. 26. i. e. the ſecond death: ſuch is the glorious tenour, tendency, and ſpirit of the goſpel: here grace triumphs over nature, and faith over reaſon: ſo let it triumph! Amen. Again,

"Eye hath not ſeen, neither hath ear heard, nor hath it entered into the heart of man to conceive the things that God hath prepared for them that love him." Why then ſo fond of natural life and its concerns?

24. Behold, the ſword of God is lifted up in thee, to ſlay the inordinate love of nature: this is the ſingle, grand point in view in the combat.

TENTH MONTH 1763.

1. Held our monthly conference.

My brother's fire is far livelier than mine.

His drink is brought into the houſe not on the firſt day, but the day before, in order to give liberty of devotion to his ſervants: and with him and his houſe not a word of worldly affairs on that day.

2. A precious ſilent meeting: thus it is good with Mary to ſit at Jeſus's feet. My ſtate, before my eſpouſals, was preciſely that of Martha; but now God calls, and draws to that of Mary: ſo draw, good Lord, yet more and more!

9. Struggled hard, and got to both meetings: was thankful to God for placing me

among my betters, both in nature and grace; but eſpecially the laſt, as holy incentives to my Chriſtian progreſs.

11. A ſilent meeting, but luminous, with a ſweet attraction of the Father's love to higher degrees of purity, and looſening from this world, even this land of darkneſs, uncertainty, weakneſs, wickedneſs, and many miſeries.

14. "Canſt thou by ſearching find out God?" Truly no: we ſee but a little of his hind parts or ſkirts: but we chymiſts, to ſay the truth, have been a kind of Babel-builders, the vanity of which attempt has appeared: the ſlow, the modeſt and cautious is the ſafeſt; but God has confounded the language of us all to this day.

But in the other country we ſhall undoubtedly have a far more reſplendent light: look up then to him who brought life and immortality to light, and to the day when this corruptible ſhall put on incorruption, this natural ſhall be raiſed up a ſpiritual body, and this fleſh and blood, which now engroſſes the whole attention of the children of the firſt Adam, ſhall be ſcattered and diſperſed into its primitive atoms.

Received the philoſopher's ſtone at meeting to day, and ſaw, in the clear viſion, all things to work together for my good, even reproaches, defamations, cavils, pain, and death itſelf as a paſſport. Such is the glory of the goſpel manifeſted to me in this the evening of my day:

day: bleſſed be God for his great love to me in Chriſt!

Poor and humble is my occupation among the poor, and pitiful among the children of this world, but glorious among the children of the light.

16. Got to meeting with ſtruggle, where I was, through the goodneſs of God, drawn on to a perſeverance in the path of heavenly mindedneſs, and giving the juſt preference of heavenly to earthly concerns.

The afternoon meeting was partly ſilent, partly loquacious: the ſilent part was more edifying than the preaching: what a pity it is that ſome perſons know not when to leave off?

17. O ſhame! O ſleepy, or rather diſtracted watchmen! We forgot not only the quarterly epiſtle, but the quarterly youth's meeting.

18. Zeal in hallowing the Lord's name in a diligent and punctual attendance at meeting increaſes, bleſſed be the Lord!

An exerciſing, wearying world in church and ſtate.

Had the glory this day of contradiction from the many, in a cauſe which the Lord knows to be righteous, and both for his glory, and for the good of the ſociety.

The mob almoſt incorrigible in defiance of law.

25. Late at meeting in God's eſtimation, though not in man's.

26. New hints pour in, in hydrology, to the benefit of mankind, I hope.

28. Learn humility from thy profeſſion: thou liveſt by the miſeries of others: and as a philoſopher, thou art purblind: every week exhibits an abſolute proof of thy imperfection and ignorance.

Our province is not to know much, but to adore.

A reflex view of my paſt life: very low as to ſpirituals, and ſo as to temporals likewiſe; but as to the latter, however, it has had this glory, viz. of my being [a] *Servus ſervorum*, bleſſed be God!

30. "The night cometh wherein no man can work," was the watch word: and I ſaw many of my brethren buried alive in the earth.

Peſtered with phyſical thoughts the fore part of the meeting; but faith and love broke through.

Moderation in ſtudies is not attained without a hearty ſtruggle: behold, good Lord, I ſtrive! Lord, help!

ELEVENTH MONTH 1763.

1. A day of ſweet ſpiritual ſolemnity, firſt at a ſilent meeting, where theſe words, "Fleſh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom," were deeply impreſſed on my mind, with an energy,

[a] A ſervant of ſervants.

to

to the weaning from all, even the lawful, things that miniſter only to fleſh and blood, as phyſick, &c. So Lord, bleſs this irradiation! And I ſaid to the Lord, I will ſtrip me of my ornaments of moral and natural qualifications, and ſit with Mary at thy feet, thou long-ſuffering Lord!

2dly. The ſecond part of this day's ſolemnity conſiſted in our monthly conference; from which it appeared, that my brother is upon the mount: God preſerve him from giddineſs there, ſuch as happened to Peter: his talents for ſpiritual improvement in pious conferences on vital, experimental religion, are ſuch as are vouchſafed to few mortals on earth.

I am ſolitary even as a ſparrow on the houſe-top, whoſe exerciſes are known only to the Lord.

He hath had much forgiven, and ſo loveth more than I, who, as to open vice, had leſs to be forgiven; though ſtill a great deal, even in a refined idolatry varniſhed over with a ſpecious moral righteouſneſs. However, on this day's conference, and reading, the glory of truth was ſo reſplendent and enamouring, that I could not proceed for a little while, by reaſon of the joyous ſenſation.

He hath his infirmities, and is not quite free from ſpots; but I have more.

He ſeems to long to be diſſolved: I wiſh, if the Lord will, to diſpatch a little more

buſineſs ſpiritual and natural, tending, I hope, to the good of my neighbour.

4. At a ſilent meeting: O may that Almighty Power, that gives bounds to the waves of the ſea, reſtrain me alſo within the holy limits, in the purſuit of natural ſcience! Alſo,

A former reſolution was revived, viz. That after ſixty, I would be content with my ſhare of worldly goods: behold, through the divine clemency, that time is now come! Lord, keep alive that reſolution!

5. I do rejoice, and will rejoice, in my mediocrity of buſineſs ſuited to my migrating ſtate.

A pertinent exhortation, to bring ſervants as well as children to meeting, a point in which ſome of the foremoſt rank have been deficient.

6. The watch word: "Let thy day's work go on with thy day."

7. For once, phyſick was abſorbed in a zeal for the ſervice of the church.

9. At meeting. A clear proſpect of much impendent neceſſary labour, and not hands to do it, particularly in the offices of viſitors and overſeers: ſurely exerciſe and trouble is before me: Lord, prepare to meet it!

Succeſs in medicine remarkably happy whilſt I attended church buſineſs.

19. A church-journey to the country, where I gave a word of occaſional obſervation and exhortation as an elder, followed by my brother, who went deeper into ſome matters.

Lord,

Lord, proſper him, and bleſs this labour and diſcharge of duty!

23. Remember well, and bear in mind on the impending occaſion of rebuke to others, that thyſelf art but a late-born Chriſtian, whom God in his mercy hath but juſt reſcued from ſpiritual idolatry.

24. New light pours in on the ſubject of waters: Lord, grant that whilſt many are buried alive in the earth, I be not drowned in the waters! Behold the ſtate of Sion, and mourn, and learn to claſs men rather than foſſils and waters; and that the Lord Jeſus ſaid, "I will make you fiſhers of men."

27. 30 min. paſt 5. The firſt day of the week: to ſtudy, to drink, and to eat, as in the Lord's preſence, is the grand point: and now mind, after the example of thy brother, to abſtain as much as poſſible from all the concerns of fleſh and blood this day: ſo ſhall it be a holy day indeed! And truly, thy own ſtate, and that of the ſociety, call loudly for ſuch abſtraction and devotedneſs, even at a time when an evil heart of unbelief in Chriſt and his glorious goſpel is the epidemick ſpiritual malady: and who, who lays this enough to heart?

At a meeting of conference diſcharged my duty (but it ſeems in too low a voice) in inviting to meetings of diſcipline, God giving courage, and a brother and ſiſter ſeconded the concern.

29. At

29. At meeting: behold, Celſus anxiouſly preſcribing the diet, regimen, and medicines proper to diſeaſed bodies! but the leaſt in the kingdom, that takes care of diſeaſed ſouls, is greater than he.

And now take a ſhort view of the ſpiritual maladies of the people: v. g. 1ſt, behold a ſpiritual blindneſs, even in men ſo far blinded by the ſpirit of this world, that they do not ſee their own real intereſt and peace, temporal or ſpiritual!

2. In men deaf to the word external and internal, with regard to the heavenly calls!

3. In men lame, and unable to come forward in practical duties and offices of love! Behold, theſe are the ſpiritual maladies which ſpread like a leproſy! but who, who lays theſe things to heart?

Answ. A few women and child-like men.

[e] *Incipe cum Deo*, was the watch word of the day.

Twelfth Month 1763.

1. Eight patients abſorbed my mattin, ſo that nothing but meer fleſh and blood was the ſubject.

Held our convention for mutual improvement in natural ſcience, and ſupported our honeſt endeavours for this purpoſe, but not without a ſtruggle; for I ſee many are buſy

[e] Begin with God.

about

about other people's buſineſs in politicks, whilſt they neglect their own.

2. Held our monthly ſpiritual conference. Joyful news of the ſpread of the goſpel among ſome of our ſoldiers.

To the query, What lack I yet?

Answ. More temperance in eating and drinking, more heavenly mindedneſs, more faith, more of the love (and conſequently filial fear) of God.

A ſilent, but luminous meeting, in a view of the preſent great ſalvation offered, even of deliverance from the corruptions of the world, and from the fears of death.

O that my fruit may bear ſome proportion to all the huſbandry beſtowed!

4. Reviewed the fluctuations of the year paſt, which truly have been very great, from the death of my brother, my old faithful ſervant, and another aſſociate; new ſcenes opening in nature, and, which is infinitely more important, in grace alſo; new acquaintances, &c. &c. In ſhort, in this alone is certainty; we are ever changing, and here is nothing ſtable.

Struggled hard, and got to meeting, where, in ſilence, the holy fire burnt with an aſpiration to an eſtabliſhment in the prevalence of the heavenly temper, overpowering other attractions, eſpecially to natural knowledge.

Alſo I was humbled and mortified in, a certain ſenſe that I have been more in words than in life.

Afternoon

Afternoon meeting ſilent, but truly luminous and warm to me: for whilſt I muſed the fire burnt, and my ſoul was raiſed from naturals to ſpirituals.

16. Leſs drink, leſs meat, and leſs natural ſtudy, ſaith the Lord.

The midnight cry is heard, and I am awakened, but not thoroughly; but am ſtill drowſy, and half aſleep. O my ſtupid heart!

Thou, phyſician outward, haſt rouſed many from their natural ſtupidity; but art now under the neceſſity of deploring thy own ſpiritual ſtupidity, and of calling in every aid to aſſiſt thee. Thy bleſſing, Lord!

17. Conſoled myſelf in the houſe of my pilgrimage.

13. A ſilent meeting, and miſerably thin, eſpecially in the ſeats of the richer ſort: the rain extinguiſhes the fire of the multitude, which ſurely muſt be very languid.

Anxieties in examination of waters: he that increaſeth knowledge increaſeth ſorrow.

15. 30 min. paſt 2. Roſe and worſhipped. We chymiſts are but groping in the dark, ſometimes ſtumbling on the truth, ſometimes catching her with labours and doubts. Shall I not dwell in the valley?

Lord, I am a monument of thy long-ſuffering: I will praiſe thy unmerited goodneſs for this ſurprizing courſe of health and vigour: O let it be ſanctified!

Our

Our citizens are light and frothy, chooſing rather to go to a wire-dancer, than to a grave, ſerious entertainment.

16. Thy day is far ſpent: night is at hand: how ſtands thy reckoning with thy Lord?

Was at meeting early in man's eſtimation, but not in God's: and there ſucceeded unſeaſonable diſcourſe after.

18. Not one tenth of the women at the afternoon meeting: a little rain extinguiſhes their fire: they are carnal.

20. An apoſtolick text darted into my mind repeatedly, viz. 1 Cor. vii. 23. "I would have you without carefulneſs:" and the context correſponded well with God's drawings of my mind from anxiety in the natural enquiries.

24. At a time when hearts almoſt failed in relation to our religious viſitings of families, did, a ſecond time (for the like event happened laſt time, even preſervation by a woman) did a woman croſs the ſea to aſſiſt, with a heavenly regard to the youth.

25. My ſixty-fifth year is now completed, through the clemency and long forbearance of God.

The afternoon meeting ſilent, but to me highly comfortable, in two ſolid evidences of ſome real advancement ſince the year 1731, when 'Virtue is its own reward,' and *vice verſa*, was the ſpecious maxim, but is now falſified by the growing light of more experience,

rience, ſhewing that conflicts, even to a great degree, are entailed upon the honeſt, whilſt bad men and hypocrites glide on with little trouble; and,

2dly, Whereas my addreſs to our ſpiritual captives was made as unto children, and from ſuch motives as were ſuitable to them; now, through divine bounty, higher and truly evangelical motives are in view.

27. A heavy, laborious mens meeting: a hard ſtruggle to get any yoked in the viſit: a diſmal holding back, and a badly attended meeting. The goad was exerciſed: mark the iſſue.

28. Opened the religious viſit to families, in company with two women nearer the kingdom than I: bleſſed be God for thus placing me among my betters.

"Not by might, nor by power, but by my ſpirit," ſaid the Lord, when Jeruſalem was to be rebuilt; and ſo now.

Take heed now to thyſelf, thou inſpector, and keep to a cloſe exerciſe of a ſtricter temperance in drinking, eating, and ſtudy.

30. Lord, glorify thy grace in our weakneſs!

On collecting the quarterly account of the bodily epidemicks, my contemplation was raiſed to the view of the epidemicks of the ſouls of my fellow citizens, one of which is, an inſenſibility of goſpel privileges.

31. Awful is our exerciſe, even war with the puiſſant monarch, or ſpirit of this world, whilſt

whilſt divers Demas's have forſaken us, or at leaſt pulled away the ſhoulders: come, however, where is thy faith and thy love? What is thy peculiar profeſſion, its extent, dignity, and importance?

The ſpiritual viſit prevails over temporals, and the concerns of the body.

First Month 1764.

1. Opens my monthly retreat.

How ſtands the account?

Answ. I feel great weakneſs, and an habitual perpetual proneneſs to natural ſcience; and it is with a ſtruggle that ſpirituals get the aſcendant: to the foreign aid then I fly.

2. Opened our monthly conference.

Notwithſtanding ſome infirmities, temptations, and ſins, which a blind world calls little, we hope we are on the high road to heaven.

3. Moroſe, cholerick, and inappetent.

Some brethren this day adminiſtered a little neceſſary admonition to a weak, but perhaps forward, miniſter: the adminiſtration was modeſt, yet went badly down.

5. Two large ſpiritual viſits with two women miniſtering friends, who ſhone to God's glory in moſt excellent and pertinent Chriſtian counſel to the poor, to the young, and to the old.

Some unſeaſonable calls on me, when weary and hungry, proved too hard for my ſmall

ſtock of patience, being anſwered with a little vociferation, to my ſhame.

7. Grace in ſome degree triumphed over nature: abandoned my temporals, and proceeded on the viſit with my two ſiſters, ſweetly comforted by their labours, mine ſlightly co-operating, and I ſometimes learning from them.

8. Let thy love of nature bear ſome proportion to the time thou haſt to ſtay here: this is but ſhort, and ſo that love ſhould be but weak.

10. Behold the height of thy calling, even no leſs than to be ready at a moment's warning to enter the bridegroom's chamber. Lord, prepare, and guard againſt the very ſpirit of drunkenneſs, gluttony, and covetouſneſs: for I now ſee, that though a man may not ſtagger in the ſtreets, yet if he drink meerly to gratify ſenſe, he is in the ſpirit of drunkenneſs: and, though he be not ſo far covetous, as to defraud his neighbour, he at the ſame time may, and actually does, rob God, when he keeps back the offerings due to him, as thouſands in the broad way daily do, even the offerings of confeſſion of ſins, humiliation, and praiſe.

15. Behold now the grand point to be kept ſteadily in view, even ſteering to the middle path, viz. On the one hand not to loiter, and on the other, not to be vehement in natural purſuits, but to be fervent in ſpirit, and to love God above all. Lord, raiſe!

16. Be-

16. Behold the work of an elder, and tremble! even as diſtinct from that of a preacher: this deals in generals, but the duty of an elder is, to make the application to individuals, particularly in relation to the queries now eſtabliſhed by general conſent: Lord, invigorate! Thou haſt hitherto ſupported.

It is a comfort to be eye-witneſſes to ſome little fruits of our labours in the viſiting part.

18. Proceeded on the viſit with my two ſiſters: it is beautiful to ſee how minutely theſe women deſcend into the particulars of the Chriſtian life, and trace out the ſnares laid in the way, quite outſhining the men, who are too generally ſwallowed up in the cares of the world.

19. Again, the ſame perſons ſhone with ſuperior luſtre. Surely the myſteries of the kingdom are ſtill revealed unto babes!

At the medical convention I was almoſt left alone: O church, O world, I can take very little comfort in either of you! but I humbly hope for better company beyond the grave.

23. This religious viſit to families is like the clinical lectures, where the theory of medicine is applied to the individual patients for the inſtruction of the pupils: but, where are the pupils for this work? Lord, behold I am one: ſo ſanctify theſe opportunities!

24. A prayerleſs morning, from long ſleep, and an exceſſive moiſt atmoſphere: the miniſtry at meeting, however, was a means of rouſing the dormant flame.

25. O our weakneſs, our childhood! We are really under a female adminiſtration; yet God can ſave by the weak, as by Deborah he did Iſrael.

26. My ſiſter-aſſociates make a ſacrifice of their health to their zeal for truth upon earth: my flame is far more languid, but increaſed a little by theirs.

Let me never forget, particularly the beautiful diſplay of grace by their means in our viſits to the poor, in excellent exhortations minutely adapted to the ſpiritual concerns of ſuch.

27. Why do theſe women ſo far outſhine me?

Answ. Becauſe they have renounced the world more.

This week grace triumphed over nature.

31. At a ſilent meeting: ſome degree of aſſurance, that ſome progreſs hath been made in the Chriſtian race; and that my path ſhall in ſome degree be as the path of the juſt.

N. B. In our ſpiritual viſits we find eaſy acceſs among the poor, and *vice verſa*.

Second Month 1764.

1. On my monthly retreat. What lack I yet?

Answ. More heavenly mindedneſs, and more of the love of God, inſpiring with more fear of the Lord on every occaſion.

At

At our monthly conference it appeared, that we agree in a contempt of this world, and in an aſpiration after a better; and I hope deſerve, in ſome meaſure, the honourable title of pilgrims.

He has raptures, but my adminiſtration is mortification and prayer.

His ſpiritual labours far exceed mine.

In his claſſes and bands, the intelligence concerning the ſtate of the ſociety is conveyed to the miniſters and elders, as ours is from the monthly and quarterly meetings. Both are only different modifications of piety and charity, and ſurely we are brethren: but they are ſtrangers to ſilent worſhip, of the profit of which we have abundant experience.

2. Committed my patients to the Lord, and proceeded in the ſocial ſpiritual viſit, in which this day the maladies of the ſouls of ſome were detected and deſcribed, viz. Blindneſs, lameneſs, and one odd way of living, viz. By the ears; or in other terms, having no other ſupport for their ſpiritual life, than what comes by hearing from others: theſe, though metaphorical, are ſolid realities, and deplorable diſeaſes of the ſoul.

5. Lord, bleſs theſe labours carried on from houſe to houſe, not at all unneceſſary, but, in the view of enlightened minds, loudly called for in the preſent diſmal ſtate of our Sion: arduous, however, is the taſk, even no leſs than fighting with the ſpirit and God of this world.

QUEST. Where are evening meetings?

ANSW. Out of faſhion, and idle viſits, among ſome, miſerably ſubſtituted.

8. Look about thee, leſt thou relapſe: thy veſper is lately ſhorter: ſee it be duly lengthened again, and riſe earlier; for night advances.

9. A prayerleſs mattin: however, this day all medical buſineſs gave way to the ſpiritual viſits.

10. A vigorous ſucceſsful ſtruggle for the meeting, where, a ſeaſonable exhortation.

12. The congregation was ſcattered by the ſtormy weather.

The teſtimony of truth was upheld heroically againſt ſuch as abſent themſelves in the evening to gratify their appetites, whoſe tables are become a ſnare to them; and, I add, "Whoſe God is their belly."

13. God is ſearching Jeruſalem, as with candles.

14. 30 min. paſt 7. O the time loſt in ſleep, and not without ſin! I am far ſhort of the auſterity of ſome of the church of Rome: I purpoſe to mend with the weather and advancing ſeaſon.

14. Diſcouraged by the continued neglect of week-day meetings, notwithſtanding all remonſtrances.

15. A vaſt defect of publick ſpirit appears in temporals, as well as ſpirituals: the proſpect tends to weaning from the world.

19. Seven o'clock. O the heavineſs of the body and exceſs of ſleep! And moreover, let others cry up the dignity of human nature! I will proclaim the contrary, and ſay, "In me dwelleth no good thing:" it is by violence that I am drawn heavenward, and to the hope of a better ſtate.

My devotion was interrupted by a natural ſpeculation, viz. In a diſcovery of what will precipitate earth out of water; but a ſuperior light converted this ſuggeſtion to one of a ſublimer nature, to the following purpoſe: what will precipitate earthly deſires out of the heart of man?

Answ. The heavenly light and power ſublimating the ſoul upon the wings of faith and love, and death at laſt, will ſeparate from this clog of fleſh and blood. Lord, ſtrengthen my feeble faith, raiſe my languid love!

Silent, mental, prayer is exemplified in the life of Saint Tereſa, as with us; and I hope ſeveral of us ſhall meet in the happier regions.

So the ſecond meeting this day, though ſilent, was luminous, and made uſeful in prompting to limits to my natural ſtudies: and to deplore my barrenneſs on the conſideration of the extent of the duties of an elder.

I alſo received an illumination in a compariſon of the monaſtick life among the Papiſts (on occaſion of reading Saint Tereſa) and our people, thus: they profeſs a ſolemn renunciation of the world in habit and manners; ſo do we, particularly in rejecting ſuperfluities

fluities in apparel, in eating, drinking, and trading, and in avoiding vain paſtimes; and it is an ancient counſel, that we ſhould avoid unneceſſary familiarity with thoſe of other profeſſions: they practiſe mental, ſilent prayer, ſo do we.

The original end of the monaſtick inſtitution was to decline the cares, honours, and pleaſures of this world, from a ſenſe of the pernicious effects of the purſuit of theſe objects, according to the courſe of this world: and verily the juſtneſs of this ſenſe appears no where more conſpicuous than in our little ſociety, the bulk whereof ſeem to be citizens of this world, as much as others, as is notorious in the flagrant neglect of the divine worſhip, notwithſtanding all the repeated entreaties to the contrary.

Indeed the Papiſts have carried this matter to an extreme; for their entire clauſure hinders them from ſhining as lights in a dark world; however, I am not without hopes of meeting ſome of theſe in Paradiſe.

26. At a provincial meeting the miniſterial adminiſtration was by a woman, but ſeaſonable and evangelical.

THIRD MONTH 1764.

1. Held our monthly conference. It is plain the contempt of the world grows upon us. My brother's diſpenſation ſtill more joyous

joyous and conſolatory than mine, who have not experienced any thing of this kind to the degree of rapture, ſince the day of my eſpouſals, though often ſweet peace: he is jealous over me, as having forfeited the renewal of any rapture, through ſome defect or ſin; but I hope this is not altogether the caſe: for I am liſted in the war, and upheld; and witneſs ſome degree of conqueſt, and a progreſs, but find it good to abide in the valley of humiliation and ſelf-contempt. Different ſtates require different miniſtrations.

2. Behold our rioters trampling upon all laws divine and human! But, what is the real ground of theſe outrages? Surely, it is unbelief. Why then not preach Chriſt to them? For our political phyſicians, though fruitful in other expedients, cannot perform a radical cure in them.

4. That thou be a ſervant of the poor is God's ordinance. Amen!

The neceſſity of a perpetual holy vigilance appears, leſt, as others are buried alive in the earth, I be drowned in the waters.

5. On the death of a kinſman and miniſter, John Hacket of Somerſetſhire.

Shalt thou paſs away without a memorial? Surely, nay: 'Thou waſt a good ſon of a bad father, and at the ſame time waſt a good father of a bad ſon. Thou waſt valiant for truth upon earth, a burning and ſhining light in a bad town and family: thou rebukedſt ſin in the gate, and waſt a heavenly minded man, that

that looked for another and better country. Thy memory is precious.'

6. As my day's work in nature is near finiſhed, a prayer for being more looſened from the world.

7. Suggeſtions of pride, on having ſpoken in a ſomewhat publick way.

8. O diſmal ſpiritual proſpect of our ſociety in Dublin! Two pillars are tottering, and a third is haſtening to eternity!

9. Five o'clock. Roſe to worſhip, and proclaimed a faſt, to be this day celebrated, in ſeeking the Lord on account of our preſent forlorn ſpiritual ſtate, preſent and impending.

Lord, to thee do I fly, whoſe wiſdom preſideth over all events!

Humbled myſelf, and vexed the fleſh a little, in ſorrow on the aforeſaid occaſion, with a ſenſe of ſuch weights and burdens, as appear unequal to my ſhoulders, however ſtrengthened.

The elders are moſtly gone, and every man mindeth his own things. In my ſiſter-pilgrim indeed reigns a holy pity for the raw, uneducated youth; but who joins her? The multitude careth for none of theſe, whilſt others viſibly withdraw their ſhoulders.

10. Lightſome after my faſt.

Thou haſt analyſed waters, but thy ſpiritual aſſociates have analyſed the ſouls of men, diſcovered their impurities, and taught how they ſhould be depurated; and, by a wiſdom ſuperior to that of the ſerpent, traced his meanders

meanders in deceiving them. I bow down, and acknowledge this philoſophy to be as much above mine, as heaven is above earth.

11. Six o'clock. The Papiſts more vigilant, roſe before me.

13. At meeting—Let us pray to the Lord of the harveſt, that he will ſend forth more labourers in doctrine and diſcipline!

At the houſe of ——— we were as live coals, kindling one another to a holy flame, and truth ſhone with ſplendour, bleſſed be the Father of Lights!

16. Queſt. How far doth charity influence thy natural ſtudies?

Answ. I aim at what is for the good of my neighbour, rejecting the ſtudies that are for meer ornament: and if there be any view to fame, Lord root it out, and give to court thy favour only, who art the eternal Truth!

I ſtand and ſit a living example of the reality and profit of the worſhip of God in ſilence.

17. Weary of the world, in a righteous view of it.

18. My devotion was quite interrupted at meeting by the fumes of indigeſtion forcing me to go out: then dined on bread and water, and a cup of coffee; and in the following meeting the fire on the altar was alive.

20. Fine leiſure in the country, and improving in divers hints.

Eight patients, and not a penny.

Dejection

Dejection at meeting, occaſioned by ſome little fatigue preceding, which generally hurts: however, a vigorous reſolution was formed, viz. The indolence and earthly mindedneſs of others ſhall incite me to more diligence.

22. A ſpiritual ſocial viſit with my ſiſter-pilgrims: a bleſſed ſweet time it was; and yet the Devil was at my right hand, prompting to pride; but light and truth prevailed, and brought me down into the valley of ſelf-contempt.

23. On a review of our ſpiritual viſit now nearly finiſhed, I was furniſhed with this ſong: "Thou, Lord, art good unto me: thou haſt ſet my feet at liberty from the entanglements of all worldly cares and ſtudies, and given me to prefer Jeruſalem before my chief joy: good Lord, ſo preſerve and increaſe every Chriſtian grace yet more and more! Thou alſo gaveſt wiſdom to ſpeak a word in ſeaſon, in concurrence with my ſuperiors and betters. To thee only, be the glory!—Satan, get thee behind me."

Surely, God's goodneſs in thus viſiting this people, not for their righteouſneſs, but in their ſins, is admirable and adorable.

Sol. Here ſeems to impend a great deal of work on me as an elder, provided I be faithful.

24. A temptation to forego my morning prayer, but God preſerved in perſeverance.

25. A dejection and ſickneſs attended this fourth time at meeting, and drove me from it: took

took a vomit, and a ſmart purging ſucceeded; I hope ſalutary.

27. At meeting—A man's greateſt enemies are thoſe of his own houſe; ſlay theſe, good Lord, and I will fear neither men nor devils.

28. Read an ancient admonition to the youth at their meeting: but where are the elders to enforce and recommend them?

Answ. They are otherwiſe engaged, even gone down into the earth.

28. Conſiderations on ſlates, rag-ſtones, and the ſouls of men; and God gave the preference to the laſt in my view.

30. A ſilent meeting with inquietude, but a ſweet irradiation of hope.

A feaſt tolerably innocent, and profitable: let your moderation appear, for the Lord is at hand. Saw the way to be narrow, and the gate ſtraight indeed.

31. Yeſterday's claret not hurtful, but beware of gluttony to day. What makes a Chriſtian a King?

Answ. His reigning over the brutal appetite: but, who is a ſlave? he that is governed by it.

Fourth Month 1764.

1. Inquietude, dejection, and ſickneſs at meeting in the morning, and partly in the afternoon, which was ſilent, and ended with

a lively hope, that God will prepare for his kingdom; but remember that the conditions are unalterable.

2. Monthly retreat: ſixty-ſix years and upwards are now paſt: ſoul, beware of the ſpirit of drunkenneſs and gluttony, and the cares of this life!

The meeting of miniſters and elders was in a great meaſure deſerted: ſurely, the head is ſick: O, what will become of us! A ſpirited reſolution, however, took place to catch the abſentees at another time.

3. At our monthly conference, an uſeful document from my brother, who, in his ſuperior zeal, cauſes all his food to be brought in the day preceding what he calls the ſabbath, ſaying, that it ſhould, as much as poſſible, be entirely devoted to ſpirituals, even as a type of the everlaſting ſabbath. Surely, it was upon the ſame general principle, that our anceſtors here ate no hot dinners on this day; and ſo they gave their ſervants opportunity to go to worſhip God, as well as themſelves: ſuch was the old faſhion and ſpirit, to which at preſent there are but few adherents. Of the others, ſeveral are abſent in the afternoon: now, on this repreſentation, what wonder at the barrenneſs reigning over our meetings? Is not a full belly a damper of the holy fire? And, if the "diligent hand maketh rich," what wonder if the "ſluggard be clothed with rags?" or that he "who ſoweth ſparingly, ſhould reap ſparingly?" And again, why ſuch com-

complaints of vicious ſervants, where ſo little care is taken to make them otherwiſe?

At meeting—Vaſt inquietude and diſtraction of thought, to my great ſorrow, interrupting the devotion.

4. An oppoſition to the ſchool-meeting.

6. A mournful ditty: Jer. ix. 17. 20. "Call for the mourning women: teach your daughters mourning, and every one his neighbour lamentation." The fountain of learning and religion is defiled: ſome of her ſons are ſons of violence and murder: and as for us, little handful, it is plain the head is ſick.

It is no time for rejoicing. I am ſtill more weary of the world. Lord, preſerve from a participation of the ſins of others.

7. A clear ſight of the folly of the purſuit of fame: it robs a man of peace, and diſables him from the diſcharge of thoſe duties, which the obſcurer ſtations permit and encourage.

8. Nearer acceſs in prayer before meeting, and poſſeſſed my ſoul in peace and ſweetneſs, without rapture, but in a calm ſenſe of God's goodneſs and gracious providences paſt and preſent.

Sol. God confounded the magicians of Egypt by the production of that contemptible inſect, a louſe: a uſeful document of the power of Providence in the uſe of mean inſtruments.

This day both meetings entirely ſilent, and I ſat alone in the high ſituation, with a diſtreſſing inquietude in the morning; but it

the afternoon ſat below for the refreſhment and eaſe of my ſpirits, and had a good ſweet time in a lively travel for an advancement in the Chriſtian race, and a ſecret whiſper that I ſhould be ſtill more diſengaged from the world.

10. The holy conflict continues, and light and truth prevail, bleſſed be the Lord!

11. A ſong in the night, ſucceeded by a diſagreeable day.

12. "Your heavens ſhall be as braſs, and your earth iron, and I will command the clouds that they rain no rain," is in part the diſmal ſcene we now witneſs. What will the end of theſe things be? Lord, thou knoweſt.

May I be prepared and rendered fit to be removed from the evil to come! Lord, give more of thy fear; for ſurely I do not fear thee enough!

13. The meeting ſilent, but luminous.

15. 30 min. paſt 5. Read the ſcriptures thus early to edification on this the firſt day of the week, according to a late hint, and found the neceſſity of thus redeeming my loſt time.

Both meetings more lively than of late.

18. God is now attacking Babylon in the ſight of all the world, even in the demolition of that main body of her artificers called Jeſuits: no ſmall event verily, and what I humbly hope will make way for the introduction of the purity and ſimplicity of the goſpel.

Saw

Saw into the weakneſs, vanity, and imperfections of phyſick, as now practiſed: the ancients ſtudied diet, and other things called non-naturals more, and the arts of pharmacy and medicines leſs; the laſt now too much (even chiefly) regarded, and by this means our honourable art is become the jeſt of the witty, and pronounced a faſhion, as indeed medicines are as variable as the faſhions of our clothes.

Engaged now in a laborious work for the publick benefit; and I hope in a way not interfering with my ſpiritual concerns: my retired preſent ſituation, in an exemption from not only vain and profane, but even needleſs converſation, favours the attempt.

In the mean time God gives the dew of heaven, and the fatneſs of the earth, being content with a little, and this with the higheſt reaſon: for, why ſhould a man with one foot in the grave, covet much proviſion?

26. A bright and lively, though humbling, irradiation to the following purpoſe: O the ſlowneſs of my progreſs during the ſpace of ſeveral years! O how long in learning this great truth, that this life of mine is not a ſtate of ſettlement, but baniſhment: Lord, faſten this truth on my heart, and let it accompany me in my conduct!

29. I ſaw my ſin of inadvertence yeſterday: now ſins, even of ignorance, were to be atoned for under the law; and ſurely the goſpel does not fall ſhort of the purity of the

law: to God's terms I fly, even to the blood which was ſhed for the remiſſion of ſins, on faith and repentance; in other terms, to the fountain or laver which is ſet open: for I muſt waſh before I ſacrifice.

Behold a beauty in the laws of Moſes, an evidence of their divine original, in the ſtrict regard to piety and juſtice, viz. "Let every man ſlay his brother,' was the command in the caſe of the golden calf: and in that of the ſtrange fire, the very ſons of Aaron were ſtruck dead by fire from heaven; and there was to be no mourning for them, zeal and piety were to ſwallow up natural affection.

Again, the prieſts were not to drink wine, nor ſtrong drink, when they went to the tabernacle of the congregation; alſo, they were to waſh, previous to their offering, and to offer for themſelves, and for the people.

FIFTH MONTH 1764.

1. Held our monthly conference.

A month of afflictions, conflicts, and buffetings, partly from cauſes unknown, partly from the ſickly ſtate of the church and backſliders, and ſome humiliation for our own temptations and ſins; yet we have pretty frequently bright irradiations of faith and love, and our meeting is ſenſibly and manifeſtly to edification, bleſſed be the Lord!

A ſweet

A ſweet ſight of the Jewiſh ſabbaths of weeks, of years, and of jubilee, as types of this and other days by me, thus, in the will of God, ſet apart for religious retirement, a ſpecial favour done me, whilſt multitudes around me are ſwallowed up in worldly cares; whereas I find, that, as reſt given to the earth once in ſeven years, was a natural and temporal advantage, theſe little ſabbaths are ſo likewiſe, even that my temporal ſtudies ſucceed far better than in a perpetual hurry.

2. The Lord was with me in curbing the ſenſual appetite.

3. and 4. A heavy exerciſe, and matter of no ſmall trouble: the ſchool-meeting, which I had attended on principle from its firſt renovation, and in which God had honoured me with ſome illuminations for the benefit of the children, at once was utterly diſcountenanced and dropped: the Lord knows by what means, to him the righteous judge I leave it, who was my refuge in this calamitous time, who is ſaid to "inhabit the cloud of thick darkneſs:" Good Lord, wean and deliver in thy own time from this heap of confuſion in church and ſtate!

A brother-pillar threatens to remove: Lord, direct our ſteps, for they ſeem tending to deſolation!

5. 15 min. paſt 5. Saw that a holy violence is to be exerciſed with regard to natural ſtudies, even the rather, as death haſtens. Accordingly roſe at this good hour in holy vigi-

lance,

lance, and read my old author, On the Contempt of the World.

Too late at meeting in God's eſtimation, although not in that of man.

6. The enquiries on foſſils proceed with ſucceſs and clearneſs, and with a muliſh ſteadineſs: but, Lord, lift up to the myſteries of grace, even of thy love, the diſplays whereof appear in our Goſhen ſurrounded by Egyptian darkneſs.

A glimmering of hope that our ſchool ſcheme may be a work of Providence, and the rather, becauſe the richeſt have the leaſt ſhare in it.

Truth triumphed in the miniſtry over the ſpirit of vanity.

A ſpiritual ſenſe teſtified of, with regard to the dulneſs of meetings, even from the greater part being in their hearts drawn another way. Was not this one real cauſe of my late exceſſive heavineſs and deſertion at meetings?

A tranſition from the ſtones called Touchſtones, by which gold is tried, to the ſpiritual touchſtone, which was exhibited this day in a miniſterial way, even by the following important and trying query: doſt thou love God or the world moſt? I feared, but not without a mixture of hope.

This day our miniſtry ſhone in preaching Chriſt Jeſus, and not themſelves: it was a good time, and I bleſs the Lord for thus placing me among my betters, and for thus

continuing

continuing a living miniſtry, even in my juniors.

7. See my labours, and the objects of them, even at the beſt, and with the moſt happy ſucceſs that can be ſuppoſed; they amount to no more than patching up a mouldering body, deſtined to deſtruction by the irreverſible decree of God: but greater and more glorious are the labours of the leaſt miniſter of the goſpel! Lord, lift up above phyſick!

7. Suggeſtions of pride in the midſt of doing my duty. Satan avaunt, and take the pride to thyſelf.

A ſecret whiſper in theſe words, "Thou canſt not be heir of two kingdoms."

8. Too worldly: my work not perfect before God.

9. An exerciſe on account of a matter ſuppoſed by a ſenior (with whom I agree) to have a bad influence on the meeting of miniſters and elders (which meeting held, as it ought to be, would be one of the moſt important, ſolemn, and uſeful meetings in the nation) viz. The holding it at three inſtead of one o'clock, i. e. after dinner; a not improbable means of damping the holy fire, and one occaſion of the dulneſs which is obſerved to attend that meeting: this exerciſe was not duly ſeconded and ſupported: may it be revived!

12. I am as a ſparrow on the houſe-top: indeed theſe general meetings refreſh, but at home is penury, famine, and deſertion.

15. A

15. A little enlargement in prayer.

The publick meeting lively, in a ſweet call to the youth: but, where are the preſbyters to ſecond it? Surely in the earth, buried alive!

17. Lord preſerve me from the contagion of theſe times!

18. Behold the Prieſts and Levites in the legal diſpenſation; and let it be queried, what art thou in the church militant?

Answ. 1. I am an Amen-man. 2. A ſcribe and recorder. 3. A viſitor. 4. Perhaps an overſeer. 5. An inſpector of the conduct of meetings for worſhip.

Awful poſts truly, and may they be often viewed as ſuch!

Again, thou art not a Nazarite, for thou drinkeſt wine; nor a publick prieſt, but a Levite, a burden-bearer in the ſpiritual Iſrael, and ſome loads are impending on thy ſhoulders, Lord, grant, they be not too heavy! Lord, raiſe up help-meets!

21. Lord, bleſs my temporal ſtudies: preſerve from conceitedneſs and oſtentation, and inſpire with love to my neighbour!

Accounts are given of conſiderable numbers of our people attending the entertainments of the ſtage.

Q. Can ſuch have a reliſh for the goſpel ſimplicity exhibited in our miniſtry, and otherwiſe? I think not: may we be ſupported in a faithful teſtimony againſt this corruption creeping

creeping in among a people called out of the world! And let us remember, that they that are for us are more than they that are againſt us, viz. The ſaints and angels in heaven, the yearly, quarterly, and monthly meetings, in each of which the alarm has been ſounded on this occaſion, and even by the preſbytery of Glaſgow.

21. One of our few pillars is removed by death.

22. Behold Caleb and Joſhua, the two faithful ſpies, ſupported amidſt a rebellious and unbelieving people, and their faith and courage, and God's ſpecial regard to it. Numb. xiv. 24. Surely, the analogy will hold. Carnal men will not believe, notwithſtanding the peculiar favour of God to us, in raiſing up a miniſtry, and eſtabliſhing a holy diſcipline, and the pointing forth the ſpiritual Canaan. What is all this mighty prevalence of the worldly ſpirit, ſo much and ſo juſtly complained of, but the very folly of the old Iſraelites acted over again, looking back to the glory of the world, even as they did to Egypt, and diſbelieving the promiſe of heaven made by the Lord Jeſus himſelf, and renewed by his miniſters animated by faith? But, ſhall not ſuch an example, ſet before their eyes, be a heavy aggravation of their guilt?

27. O my ſoul, thou haſt ſpread in the branch, but muſt now ſhoot downwards, and grow in the root, even in the love of God, and its twin-ſiſter, the fear of him, exerted on the objects

objects of eating, drinking, and feeding of the brain, and in patience under impending ſufferings, and in looking up unto and truſting in God under all diſcouragements whatſoever.

28. The Iſraelites were to be hanged up againſt the ſun, when they joined themſelves to the idol Baal-peor. I query then, what will become of ſuch, who, making a god of their belly, neglect the worſhip of the true and living God?

29. Of three elders, not one at the province; alſo no outward miniſter there: a very diſmal account truly! Is this a time for feaſting?

31. Finiſhed Gill's inſtructive comment on Geneſis, Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers: bleſſed be the Lord for raiſing up ſo uſeful a man!

Sixth Month 1764.

1. Held our monthly conference.

My brother's faith and love are ſtronger than mine: he hath had much forgiven, ſo loveth more: he is more weaned from the world than I, who am often heartily ſick of it, although neceſſarily engaged in it: he injures his conſtitution by exceſs in Chriſtian vigilance: I am forced to huſband mine, yet I ſtruggle and work ſmartly, and read and pray whilſt many are aſleep.

3. Brittle upon a ſlight occaſion.

5. At meeting, a preſſure upon my ſpirit that I may be ripened in proportion to the advancing harveſt-day.

8. At a ſilent meeting—A ſlight raviſhment of faith and ſweet hope, and a heart jealous of this world, as a ſtate of perpetual danger, with doubts concerning yeſterday's compotation.

9. Saw myſelf in the clear viſion to be top-heavy, and the neceſſity there is for my growing leſs in the branch, and more in the root.

10. Sol. Greatneſs is a ſnare to goodneſs: behold the multiplicity of the cares and engagements of the great, and pity them.

A temptation to abſcond from meeting repulſed.

11. Sol. Behold the ſpiritual epidemick diſeaſes of the ſouls of thy fellows, and mourn and work: the head is ſick, and the heart faint; the dragon's tail hath ſwept down the third part of the ſtars; practical atheiſm, in a groſs prevailing neglect and contempt of the worſhip of God in ſpirit, and unbelief in Chriſt, is entering; and partiality threatens in a notable inſtance: ſhall I give way? Then let my right hand forget its cunning!

The lukewarm are robbers of God, unjuſt to themſelves, to their children, and to their friends and neighbours, even in the neglect of publick worſhip, and the direful ſpreading of their example.

19. 45 min. paſt 3 in the morning. Solid delight and improvement by this early riſing.

Edified by Gill on Deuteronomy, ſhewing a peculiar glory among the Jews, in their worſhipping God without any likeneſs, as other nations, who, without the light of Divine Revelation, are ſunk in baſe idolatry; and next in the excellency of their laws: but now, now the goſpel-day ſhines infinitely brighter, and lays us under deeper obligations.

But how few believe in and ſee this glory? and how many forget the Lord, as the Jews forgot the covenant of the Lord their God?

Again, how ſtrongly expreſſive of the danger of proſperity is that precept, Deut vi. 10, 12. "When the Lord thy God hath brought thee into the land—beware leſt thou forget the Lord." Again, even in that cloudy diſpenſation, ſee God's injunction to parents, Deut. vi. 6, 7. and let the parents, who generally abſent themſelves from the meeting appointed for the youth, even under the preſent glorious ſhining of the goſpel light, juſtify themſelves if they can.

20. A ſomewhat cold reception of the ſpiritual book I lent: the inn is full of other gueſts.

21. Sol. Why expect an old head on young ſhoulders? and why wonder at the carnal ſtate of our youth? Shall we not pity their weakneſs, and allure them by holy wiles, as Paul did ſome of the churches formerly? Surely, there is ample room for more labour among

among them: Lord. raiſe and ſend men to do this work!

Conſider this matter yet more maturely: our way, as the way of every Chriſtian indeed, is a way of ſelf-denial, a ſolemn profeſſion hung out to the world, in our language and manners, of a renunciation of the world, which muſt needs be a croſs to fleſh and blood: but, conſider the example of our Captain, even Chriſt Jeſus, who was made perfect through ſufferings.

23. A farther clearing up of the illumination the 18th above, in relation to my ſtation in the ſpiritual Iſrael, even as bearing an analogy to that of the Levite under the firſt covenant, which was, "to bear the ark of the covenant, and to ſtand before the Lord to miniſter to his prieſts in the tabernacle, and to keep and guard that." See Deut. x. 8. In other terms, to be as Aaron and Hur, who held up the hands of Moſes. p. 70

Moreover, take notice of Moſes's faſting a ſecond time forty days and forty nights, on occaſion of the idolatry of the golden calf; and learn hence to faſt more, and feaſt leſs; for, ſurely, the ſpiritual idolatry of the golden calf is alſo found in our camp, even confidence in riches, and devoting the beſt of our time and labour to the acquiring the temporal before the ſpiritual treaſure, egregiouſly manifeſted in the prevailing general neglect of the publick worſhip of God, the King Inviſible, Chriſt the Lord, who hath promiſed

his preſence to thoſe that meet in his name: but do thoſe concerned in this neglect really believe him? I think not.

Again, another portion of ſcripture ſeemed to be applicable to the diſmal times and preſent ſtate of the ſociety among whom my lot is caſt, viz. Deut. xi. 16, 17. "Beware, leſt your heart deceive you, and leſt you turn aſide, and ſerve other gods, and worſhip them, and ſo the anger of the Lord be kindled againſt you, and he ſhut up heaven, that there be no rain, and that your land yield not her fruit, and ye periſh quickly from the good land which the Lord giveth you.

26. We grow formal: for our quarterly queries are neglected, as is the publick worſhip previous thereunto, by ſeveral of my aſſociates, who ought to be better waymarks.

Seventh Month 1764.

1. Opens the monthly retreat.

Sixty-five years and a half are now paſt.

Q. What is the real obſtacle to an entire union of thy will to that of thy Maker?

Answ. I am not enough mortified to the love of natural ſcience, the object of which is meer fleſh and blood, and I am jealous of a like defect in ſenſual gratification in eating and drinking.

As

As to ſciences, I have indeed ever ſtudied uſefulneſs, not meer curioſity; but this will not juſtify before God, nor indeed the beſt of my works.

I have alſo loved truth upon earth, and devoted both time and treaſure to the promotion of it; but not with half that ardour which animates the hearts of ſome of my contemporaries, particularly the miniſters: to this add, that in my ſpiritual writings I have been more in words than in life. Where is pride now? Satan, avaunt!

8. At meeting—A doubt whether I love God above all: indeed I feel an attraction upwards, and a weaning from this world; but this weaning time is a time of ſtruggle: Lord, ſupport under it, yet more powerfully!

10. A ſhocking load of church buſineſs impends, with which I was exerciſed, and diſcharged in a degree of integrity.

12. More weight of important church buſineſs: Lord, raiſe up help-meets!

13. A ſilent meeting, but prolifick in ſweet appoſite meditations, &c. to the following purpoſe: Lord, I do not love thee enough, becauſe I do not fear thee enough: yet I am ſure the war goes on, and with ſome ſucceſs.

Impends my work as a Levite: Lord, ſtrengthen then the ſhoulders, and clothe with a little more faith, a little more hope, and a little more love! For ſurely, if my ſenſe be

right, God hath a ſeed here, even in our little meeting.

Lord, limit and direct my natural ſtudies!

14. Sol. The dependence on man in meetings of worſhip, is a new ſpecies of image-worſhip; for the worſhip of God conſiſteth in love, reverence, and obedience. Lip-labour abſtract from this is no worſhip, but only a picture or repreſentation of it. Now our diſtinguiſhing character is, an adherence to, and dependance on, not pictures, but realities.

15. The afternoon meeting deſerted, eſpecially by the women, whoſe fire is ſo languid, that a little rain immediately extinguiſhes it. Surely theſe ſee no beauty in our ſilent meetings, as others ſee none in our Chriſtian diſcipline.

Come an eloquent preacher, and they will flock to him; but ſurely they do not believe in Jeſus, who hath promiſed to be with the two or three that gather in his name. God correct their indolence, and anoint their eyes, that they may ſee!

15. At meeting—A tender tear of joy (a great rarity of late) on a ſweet refreſhing proſpect of the glory of the goſpel day and goſpel promiſes.

A diſmal ſcene of church affairs ſucceeded: work to be done, but want of hands, and want of prudence in diſpoſing of ſervices.

16. The moſt innocent of feaſts carry a bitterneſs with them.

17. Ex-

17. Exerciſed with a jealouſy of the ſpirit of gluttony, but was meaſurably preſerved.

20. Dull and ſleepy at a ſilent meeting, with a cloudy atmoſphere; yet was comforted with an aſſurance of having done my duty in the exerciſe of Chriſtian diſcipline, and this text was ſweetly applied: "Be not weary in well-doing: in due time thou ſhalt reap, if thou faint not."

22. Heavy, dragging work, to get a ſucceſſion of overſeers, whilſt a greater neceſſity of it than ever appears.

23. Spiritual news. Soldiers and ſinners receive the goſpel.

24. Truth triumphed in the diſcipline-meeting, amidſt great backſlidings; to God only be the glory!

29. Attended a miniſter in a church journey, and diſcharged my duty as a Levite to my fellow-Levites.

30. Still cauſe of complaint of earthly attractions, even to natural ſtudies, and that in me dwelleth no good thing: thy goodneſs, Lord, is about me. May it attend as the pillar of cloud by day, and of fire by night!

Farewell now plants, farewell foſſils and waters, any more than as in the way of duty, and without anxiety! for God hath placed higher and better objects before me.

Sol. O my ſoul, view now the world and the church, and view phyſick and its profeſſors, and be delighted with the proſpect, if thou canſt. Surely thou canſt not, but rather

rather deplore them all, and pant after a better ſtate, which the Lord Jeſus hath promiſed: O may the conditions on my part be fulfilled! "If the Lord delight in us" (as ſaid the Jew typical, ſo let us ſay) "he will give us the land."

EIGHTH MONTH 1764.

1. Held our monthly conference.

My brother confeſſeth, amidſt all his experiences, that he daily falls ſhort of his duty to God and man: this ſhews his humility, and God's favour to him, in ſhewing him the wide extent of his law.

2. Some ſpeak of ſuch illapſes of light and holy fire as affect the body: my fire is more languid, yet alive: I have often great tranquillity, peace, and thankfulneſs, and rarely a confolatory tear, except of late after great deſertions.

Opens monthly retreat.

65 $\frac{7}{12}$ years are now paſt: how much time is before me, Lord thou knoweſt. Alſo, what will become of this city, thou knoweſt; not I, who am as a ſparrow on the houſe top, panting a little after a better ſtate, and better company.

Lord, who haſt deprived us of the opportunity of the ſchool-meeting, viſit the youth, and bring them forward, if it be thy holy will, in the places of thoſe who have ſlighted thy call, thou God of Samuel!

4. To ſit, hear, and learn, is more ſafe, and more profitable than to teach.

9. There is a fair analogy between the ſtate of Iſrael under the Judges, on the death of Joſhua and the elders, and our church ſtate here. Now judgment is to be exerciſed on tranſgreſſors, and the weak are to be ſtrengthened.

Lord, invigorate, and raiſe up help-meets! Rules are laid down, but unleſs thou animate, they are a meer dead letter. I bleſs thee, who haſt hitherto helped me in this labour, contrary to the maxims of the friendſhip and policy of this world!

It is a doubt whether any will join as overſeers: Lord, look down upon our deplorable ſtate!

Again, neither is the analogy leſs juſt between our ſtate and that of Iſrael, when God delivered them by Deborah: for, of late years, much of, not only the miniſtry, but even the viſits of families is devolved into the hands of women; and who ſhall ſay that God cannot effect great things by mean inſtruments?

10. Take care, take care, of the fumes of cyder and whiſkey: tremble at the mixture. Such is the ſpirit of the true Quaker, and ſuch was Joſeph, who ſaid, "How ſhall I do this evil? &c.

Attempted an appointment of overſeers, to little purpoſe. The city is in danger, and we cannot get watchmen: they cry out, we are not fit: Lord, look down and fit!

12. A diſmal ſcene: a publick oppoſition to the mens meeting, and two contradictory declarations in a meeting for worſhip. Lord, look down! I hope we are not wholly abandoned.

13. Diſcharged my conſcience as inſpector of the miniſtry and meetings of worſhip.

A fertile day in naturals, but a barren one in ſpirituals.

14. A ſilent meeting, but profitable: the Lord is my refuge in the preſent diſtreſs: he knoweth our ſtate altogether.

19. Church appointments neglected, by reaſon of bad yoke-fellows.

A glorious diſplay of the Spirit of Prayer, and the Prayer of the Heart, in Law's book: I lent it, in order to convince ſome of the ſpread of a goſpel ſpirit.

20. The ſtate of Sion makes me almoſt weary of the world: ſurely there is better company: Lord, ſend forth more labourers!

21. At the meeting of diſcipline the teſtimony was held up both againſt a ſpurious miniſtry, and againſt open immorality, bleſſed be the Lord!

23. A luminous and conſolating irradiation in the preſent labours in diſcipline, wherein they were ſeen, not as by the carnal as a mean thing, nor with an utter neglect as by the lukewarm, but as in God's ſight, as a great and important affair: thus was I encouraged to hold on my way, yet to pray for help-meets!

Again,

Again, the work of an elder, faithfully proſecuted, ſeems to be rather greater or more laborious than that of a meer miniſter, even the application of the Chriſtian precepts to individuals.

27. 1 Sam. iii. 1. "The word of the Lord was precious in thoſe days, there was no open viſion or prophecy;" our caſe well nigh the ſame.

29. Diſtributed a pious book.

30. My retirement is highly improving to myſelf, and I believe to others.

31. Dinner, bread and water, on a medical principle.

NINTH MONTH 1764.

Opens my monthly retreat.

1. I proclaim a faſt to myſelf on a purely religious account, at the next opportunity.

God hath favoured me beyond thouſands, even in giving eaſe and liberty to diſcharge my duties religious and civil. The time of diſſolution haſtens. As to temporals, God hath given me to ſay, "it is enough:" determined then to follow the Lord's drawings from this world of ſin, labour, temptation, weakneſs, and ſuffering: O what a bleſſed thing under theſe circumſtances is the hope of the goſpel! It is my refuge indeed. Lord, give to love thee, that I may dwell with thee for ever in a far better and more glorious ſtate!

2. A viſit to the womens meeting, I hope to ſome good purpoſe: providentially, a foreign ſiſter helped us.

4. Strength declines, and the fleſh wears away.

6. Thou art, as a naturaliſt, ſtudying ſtones: but lift up thy heart to a view of the ſtony hearts of thy brethren, even hearts that are not touched by the calls of the Son of God himſelf, nor thoſe of his ſervants, but remain obdurate in the perſevering contempt of the publick worſhip of God, and of the Chriſtian diſcipline eſtabliſhed; and of the laſt to that degree, that the neceſſary buſineſs depending could not be duly tranſacted. Surely here is not only a hard heart, but a blind eye, which can ſee no beauty in theſe things! Is not here occaſion for both faſting and mourning?

8. Now completed in a year and a quarter my review of my collections on Natural Hiſtory for eighteen years: bleſſed be the Lord!

† 9. See: it is not the letter, but the ſpirit, not the ſhadow nor picture, but the ſubſtance that is our characteriſtical ſcope and aim. After this do I pant, and hope that the Father of Spirits will favour this aſpiration.

All preaching and writing will ſoon come to an end; but love, the moſt reſplendent and durable of all ſpiritual gifts, will abide for ever.

The repeated advice of our church in former times was, 'Beware of too eager a purſuit of riches.' The like caution was this day renewed

renewed upon my ſpirit, with reſpect unto the too eager purſuit of natural knowledge; for ſurely, all this will be ſwallowed up in viſion ſhortly; and the apoſtolick recommendation of a holy careleſſneſs, in reſpect to temporals, was ſweetly revived and applied to me.

10. God's goodneſs is admirable and adorable, in ſtriving with the careleſs and rebellious, as this day, by a woman of low degree raiſed up: a well-fraught veſſel truly, with an amazing elegance and propriety of application of ſcripture, various and copious, ſimple, humble, and loving. My ſoul ſhrinks into ſelf-contempt on the compariſon: there let me dwell for ever! If I be a ſtep-ſtone in thy houſe, Lord, it ſhall be enough.

12. Hiſtory. The elders will not come to aid and aſſiſt at the youth's meeting.

13. I proclaimed a faſt on account of the depravity of the times both within our walls, and without them. Indolence and cowardice, in a cauſe wherein the honour of our Chriſtian profeſſion is concerned, are nicknamed prudence.

Ate bread, and drank water for dinner.

16. The extenſive duties of an elder ſhewn me, in occaſional viſits to the young, the poor, and the ignorant. Mine among the children are interrupted: Lord, revive them!

God gave courage to diſcharge my duty at a meeting of fellow-elders.

19. Proceeded in the diſtribution of a pious book.

20. An eccleſiaſtical journey.

I wondered how the ſaints could eat of ſuch variety of diſhes as they did.

Bleſſed be the Lord, who hath enabled to oppoſe a ſpurious miniſtry.

23. At quarterly meeting was with my betters: and, though the men are in a great meaſure withdrawn from the miniſtry, one woman ſhone in that ſtation, in a ſweet goſpel ſound, and invitation to the youth, and to the ſinners in Sion.

A renewed diſtaſte of the world: but O my earthly mindedneſs, my brittleneſs, and my brutality in eating and drinking; though not to exceſs according to the world!

29. O ſweet and illuminated ſolitude! I ſee the mens meeting aſleep, whilſt deſolation looks in at our windows. Lord, enlighten, rouſe and ſtrengthen, leſt we periſh from the land!

30. Opens monthly retreat.

Sixty-five and $\frac{9}{12}$ of ſeventy years are now paſt.

QUEST. What lack I yet?

ANSW. A more ſolid and permanent contempt of this world, and all the concerns of fleſh and blood; bounds to be ſet to the anxious purſuits of nature; higher degrees of faith in Chriſt, even as gone to prepare a place for us. Be no longer a fool in making this thy reſt; for it is a polluted one to every man that makes it ſo, an ever-ſhifting ſcene and unfolded complication of pleaſure, pain, good,

good, and evil. Glory to God for his love to us in Chriſt, in having appointed for us a happier ſtate, on the proper conditions!

TENTH MONTH. 1764.

5. A faſt on occaſion of the deſolations of Sion.

Subjects for mourning opened.

1. The infidelity and practical atheiſm of the higher rank, and their devotion to pleaſure.

2. The inſolence of the mob, in defiance of power both civil and military.

3. The pomp of phyſicians, whilſt negligent of improving the healing art in a ſocial way.

4. The neglect of the worſhip of God, notwithſtanding all remonſtrances; and among us, with the aggravation of our higher profeſſion of a ſpiritual worſhip, which is ſlighted by a vaſt majority, and even among ſome of thoſe who ought to be good way-marks.

5. Two in high ſtations, within theſe few years, polluted the ſanctuary in the ſight of the people.

6. Many of the younger ſort are blind, ſeeing no beauty in our worſhip nor diſcipline; to which add the dwarfiſhneſs of the ſeniors, who pull away their ſhoulders from neceſſary ſervices; and, inſtead of being fathers and inſtructors, are themſelves children; hence,

that the offices of overſeers and of viſitors are in danger of being ſuſpended.

7. The want of family devotion for the more cloſe inſtruction of a raw, ignorant youth, pitifully diſmiſſed meerly to a publick meeting, and this in a great meaſure ſilent.

But, are there no ſubjects for rejoicing? Yes.

1. In this ſingular bleſſing, of being content with a little, both as to worldly gains, and as to the purſuits of ſcience; and hence a delightful leiſure for meditation and reading, for ſpiritual and natural improvement.

2. Eaſy circumſtances favouring theſe purpoſes.

3. God's ſpecial viſitation in old age, with a more lively faith in Chriſt Jeſus, and humble hope and proſpect of the heavenly Canaan, the balſam and comfort of life amidſt all troubles: and, notwithſtanding the above repreſentation of our ſtate, not one whit more dolorous than true, the holy ſcriptures furniſh conſolation, in repeated inſtances of God's ſpecial care and providence over a faithful remnant in all ages. O may I be their companion for ever!

† 7. Some further proſpects of the duties of elders, particularly in the execution of the queries.

Goaded ſome very tardy members of the mens meeting, and exhibited a ſhort exhortation to the youth.

9. At a ſilent meeting—A ſtrong preſſure on my ſpirit to more fruitfulneſs.

12. At

12. At another—A ſweet review of God's ſpecial mercies to me, in opening more myſteries both in grace and in nature, and giving to ſee ſome good days, as well as evil ones.

14. Many expect old heads upon young ſhoulders, and the deſcent of virtue to be, like that of eſtate, from father to ſon; but thou art not to marvel, that that which is born of the fleſh is fleſh, nor to fret thyſelf immoderately becauſe of evil doers, nor becauſe of the ſinners in Sion, nor becauſe many that ſeem now to be firſt ſhould prove to be the laſt: for ſuch changes are no new things.

At the morning meeting, great inquietude from the fumes of indigeſtion; yet fixed in prayer for being preſerved in moderation: my medicine was a dinner on bread and water.

15. "The eye is not ſatisfied in ſeeing, nor the ear in hearing:" ſtop then thy career in nature.

19. Soul, remember where and what thou waſt, and extend a compaſſionate view to thy brethren-ſinners in Sion.

♄ † 21. 45 min. paſt 6. Too idle in bed to day: O fleſh, thou clog!

In the ſolemn ſilence of this day I was convicted of the ſpirit of gluttony, even living to eat, as a brute, and bleſſed God for inflicting ſickneſs and inquietude; thus, in ſcripture language, bringing my own way upon

♄ † Mark of the firſt day of the week.

my own head: repeated Celſus's medicine, laſt named, viz. Water.

22. Did God maintain his jealouſy againſt idolatry, by the exertion of his Almighty Power during the whole ſeries of the Jewiſh oeconomy, and particularly in the inſtance of Elijah the prophet deſtroying the prieſts of Baal? And doth he not now equally deteſt our ſpiritual idolatry, even our preferring the glories, pleaſures, and profits of this world to thoſe of the next; our unbelief and diſregard of Chriſt Jeſus, our ſpiritual Joſhua? Hath he, however, forſaken his church? Surely, no.

23. At a ſilent meeting—After a ſtruggle with flatulence, reſtleſſneſs, and low thoughts, a bright irradiation and ſweet attraction of the Father's love to the following purpoſe: "In this is my heavenly Father glorified, that ye bring forth much fruit;" even as an elder. Lord, open this ſcene!

24. Brittle on divers unexpected calls, through weakneſs, and an alloy of ſin.

26. Anecdote in the Hiſtory of the Devil: at Paris play-houſes are particularly thronged on the firſt day of the week, and bear-baiting is ſaid to be practiſed: now, though we be not ſo barefaced, are we not evidently approaching to the like vanity and forgetfulneſs of God, by the late and preſent monſtrous growth of theſe vain paſtimes gradually ſpreading through the moſt conſiderable cities in the Britiſh dominions, both at home and abroad?

28. A

28. A ſlight ſemi-paralytick ſtroke on my thumb, with a ſtrong impreſſion of the approach of the midnight cry; for even already hath God of his bounty given thee nearly two years ſince the death of thy elder brother.

29, 30. Improved the day of ſmall things a little, even in diſtributing a good book, as a Levite, and wrote one epiſtle on the occaſion of lukewarmneſs in the worſhip of God.

A young miniſter exhibited a ſweet goſpel-call to the youth: I rejoiced in God's goodneſs in thus ſupplying a miniſtry from my juniors, an evidence of his power, goodneſs, love, and providential care over his church.

But, after all, elders ought to co-operate with miniſters, even in making the application to individuals; elſe the work ſeems to be but half done: Lord, raiſe up help-meets!

Eleventh Month 1764.

1. Opens my monthly retreat.

I am learning, but have not yet quite learned to ſay on all occaſions, "Thy will be done."

Again, O my groveling heart! how long ſhalt thou dwell on the meer concerns of fleſh and blood? Surely, it is high time to be looſened.

It is firmly impreſſed on my mind, that the time is ſhort: Lord, give me to redeem it, and bleſs my temporal ſtudies dedicated to the

 fulfilling

fulfilling the ſecond great commandment; but ſtill with a preference to ſpirituals, and ſuperior honour for every, even the leaſt miniſter of the goſpel.

Thus do I ſeem in ſome ſort to die monthly, if not daily.

2. At our monthly conference.

We both ſometimes complain of coldneſs of love, and weakneſs of faith: my brother hath ſome deſertions, and I am not without ſin; but the war is continued.

Their women are exerciſed in private admonitions to their own ſex, to good effect; and they pray in their own families, and ſometimes in their confeſſionary conventicles: theſe are conſiderable advances, but our women go much further; however, I hope they and we ſhall meet in the happier region.

5. At the national meeting—A moſt ſorrowful view of ſervices good and neceſſary, particularly thoſe of elders and viſitors unſupplied.

6. The London written epiſtle breathes forth a goſpel ſpirit, ſuitable to our preſent ſtate: and the ſtream of the miniſtry runs to the youth: Lord, give us elders to concur with it!

A troubleſome day through divers croſs accidents, and an exerciſe of patience on the folly and weakneſs of a committee.

8. I was among my betters, whoſe faith and love is far greater than mine: theſe are bleſſed incentives: let me be their companion

in

in this vale of ſorrows, and for ever in the better country!

10. One female miniſter only at the general meeting from the country: ſhocking times!

11. The ſtream of the miniſtry ſtill runs to the youth: they, therefore, are not abandoned; and moreover, from their readily aſſembling quarterly, I conclude there is a ſeed among them, which will admit of watering; Lord, ſend forth waterers! whilſt the Demas's are ſtill groveling in the earth.

17. The important ſervice of viſiting families in a ſocial capacity is dropping, nay, dropped; for the people in general have no ſpirit to perform it; ſo that here is little left, but ſome poor pittance of preaching, and the exerciſe of Chriſtian diſcipline in the hands of a few.

18. A reflex view of my life, from the firſt ſetting out to the preſent moment, in relation to vows: the firſt vow was like Jacob's, which vow I kept badly, having been overtaken with ſpiritual idolatry: the ſecond was on the day of my eſpouſals, about ten years ago, which I humbly hope hath been kept, though not perfectly, but weakly.

20. A deep and lively ſenſe of the narrowneſs of the way: the war indeed is maintained, but the ſtruggle is great: on the one hand, I am preſſed with the proſpect of death before a certain work is finiſhed; on the other, with a jealouſy, leſt this [illegible] is a meer concern of fleſh and blood) ſhould prevail over

over my ſpirituals: Lord, help! Lord, raiſe, or I periſh!

Anecdote. A worthy, fervent miniſter is ſhut up among us.

21. Surely, God was with me in my childhood, drawing to the love of himſelf beyond that of father and mother, and in the manly ſtate never wholly forſook me, but bore with my ſpiritual idolatry and moral righteouſneſs; but now is reviving the ſame tender call to the ſupreme love of himſelf, as in my youth; and moreover, to the righteouſneſs which is by faith in Chriſt Jeſus, whom, days without number (even the God of grace and mercy in him) I ſlighted, having been abſorbed in him as the God of nature, but now called forth to the love of him as the God of grace, and to a preference of the knowledge of him as ſuch to all other knowledge, and to a holy and well-grounded contempt of this life, and whatever meerly concerns it. So, Lord, raiſe!

23. A grateful ſenſe of God's protection in ſeveral paſt aſſaults: Lord, preſerve to the end!

25. Happineſs is an exotick, which none but the ignorant expect to find in theſe regions; but Chriſtianity alone points it out in the other.

O the fervency of the primitive Chriſtians, as exemplified in Paul's prayers night and day, 2 Tim. i. 3. and in Epaphroditus, who regarded not his life for the work of Chriſt; and

and Epaphras, who ſtrove in prayer to God for the brethren, to an agony!

28. View the errors of ſome, and the incorrigible perverſeneſs of another; view the low ſtate of the Chriſtian life, the lukewarmneſs and unbelief of thy fellow-profeſſors; view in nature the perplexities of ſcience, and particularly in thy own branch; view thy own beſtial appetites prompting to live to eat and to drink; and after all this, love either the world, or thyſelf, if thou canſt. No, I cannot; but will look up to Jeſus our pattern, and beſeech him yet to ſearch and purify more and more, and prepare me for the better company above.

30. At meeting a ſolemn query was put to my ſoul, viz. What has thy faith done for thee?

Answ. 1. It has given a nearer view of eternity, and a ſweet hope of acceptance in the beloved.

2. A more fervent love of ſpiritual brethren as ſuch, even a love ſurpaſſing that of all external connections.

3. It has, by a holy violence, lifted me up above all the ſpecious concerns of fleſh and blood, even phyſick and natural ſcience.

4. Upon a conviction of an inordinate attachment to theſe laſt objects in time paſt, it has taught me now to redeem my time in a juſt preference to the divine ſtudies.

On the other hand, there is abundant cauſe for the purſuit of an increaſe of this faith: for

for indeed, were it ſtronger, I ſhould love God more: for I am ſure I do not love God enough, becauſe I do not fear him enough. In the next place, I am afraid of the ſpirit of gluttony and drunkenneſs. I feel the daily dragging down of the mind to natural ſtudies.

On the whole, the combat is great.

TWELFTH MONTH 1764.

Opens my monthly retreat.

1. It ſeemed, that I muſt content myſelf with a very low ſtation in the houſe of God: indeed I am not worthy of a higher.

† 2. 15 min. paſt 7. Great indulgence to my eyes, in conſideration of the great work before me, and ſun ſet haſtening, though it now ſhines with uncommon vigour on body and mind; adored be the God of nature and of grace.

Read Doddridge, a laconick, pathetick, energetick, and heart-ſearching miniſter; O what a pigmy am I before him!

3. Great agitations and fluctuations of mind, on account of an occaſion of publick trouble.

4. An old acquaintance threatens to migrate, death's harbingers are upon him.

"Let thy moderation appear; for the Lord is at hand."

5. At the youth's meeting, was greatly humbled under a ſenſe of my great weakneſs,

and

and the poorneſs of the miniſterial exhibitions there, and want of elders gifted for the ſervice: alſo in ſadneſs for want of brethren-mourners, and even declaimers, of whom now none appear on occaſion of the late attempt made to break our fence: Lord, ſtrengthen and raiſe up them that ſhall do the work far better than I!

From theſe diſtreſſes I retired, and purſued my medical ſtudies ſucceſsfully: yet not without a word of conſolation as to ſpirituals, viz. "Rejoice when ye fall into divers temptations, knowing that tribulation worketh patience, &c. and the trial of your faith is more precious than that of gold."

7. Impends the ſpiritual viſit to the idle, in concert: behold, this is ſpiritual medicine: Lord, inſpire for the work!

A ſilent meeting, and very ſweet, under a lively ſenſe of the Lord's goodneſs and bounty.

Behold the labour and work of years in ſearch of truth natural, and yet but imperfectly found: † *Eſt tamen aliquid prodire tenus*; and as light is better than darkneſs, ſo is a little knowledge than total ignorance: and I hope I may be bleſſed in this my lower ſphere, compared to that of the leaſt faithful miniſter.

8. A feaſt, pretty ſober.

A week of bitter affliction upon Sion's account.

† However, it is ſomething to have gone thus far.

† 9. Eight o'clock. O the clog of fleſh and blood cauſing ſo much loſs of time on this day!

God gave grace to prefer Jeruſalem to worldly profit.

A ſweet time in the afternoon in ſilence: an holy attraction to diligence in the office of an elder, and particularly in the admonitions we are now, by the churches order, engaged in.

15. Six patients, one in the country, abſorbed my mattin: redeemed the time poorly in the evening. O my barrenneſs, and the choaking cares of the world! If I, who have ſo little of them, experience this, what muſt they do, who are ſo deeply immerſed in them?

† 16. 15 min. paſt 7. Uneaſy about the time ſpent in bed.

Exonerated my conſcience in a certain publick oppoſition to a ſpurious miniſtry, in behalf of which I ſay, O the hardneſs of the hearts of ſome men!

17. A dull proſpect ſeems yet before me: here is an earthly minded people, and my own heart is ever groveling towards the concerns of fleſh and blood, even nature and natural things: "Lord ſend forth thy light and thy truth; in me dwelleth no good thing." An almoſt Chriſtleſs day.

18. A ſweet luminous time at meeting, and was prompted to more induſtry in performing the ſpiritual viſits, with a ſweet ſenſe that God loveth a chearful giver: alſo on the compariſon of the care of the immortal to the mortal;

mortal; this laſt, even phyſick, dwindled to little in the clear viſion: bleſſed be the Lord!

To obſerve ſtrictly the precept, 'to eat and to drink to live,' is an attainment not the moſt eaſy, but one ſtrong inſtance of the commandment being exceeding broad, the way narrow; and that fleſh and blood, which ſhall never inherit the kingdom, muſt be ſlain both ſpiritually and literally.

21. A faſt, on occaſion of a publick defiance of our ſpiritual army.

Whence comes this inſolence? Is it not in part owing to ourſelves, even to a ſecret departure in heart from, or unbelief in, our General, the evidences whereof are too manifeſt; hence the enemy takes advantage: in other terms, a ſtupidity and inſenſibility of the beauty of the hedge with which the Lord of the vineyard hath fenced us; in which an attempt was now openly made to open gaps, and of conſequence to lay us waſte: who in in his ſenſes can be totally ſilent on this occaſion? Why are not more mouths opened in declamation, even in an holy avowed concurrence?

22. On this occaſion, I reviewed the ſolemn faſt and confeſſion of the Levites, Neh. ix. in which are ſeveral things applicable to our ſtate: particularly, ver. 16. "They hardened their necks, and hearkened not to thy commandments: neither (ver. 17.) were they mindful of thy wonders." Ver. 25. "They did eat, and were filled, and became fat—

they caſt thy law behind their backs." Ver. 29. "They withdrew the ſhoulder." Ver. 34. "Neither have our kings, our princes, our prieſts, nor our fathers kept thy law, nor hearkened to thy commandments."

23. Here are ſpiritual poſts, but not men to fill them, particularly that of elders, in this large and populous city. Is it an honour to be an officer under an earthly king? and is it none to be one under the heavenly? The carnal mind hath no reliſh for this honour, though it come from God.

A doubtful appearance at meeting, viz. A ſong of praiſe, where a mournful ſong ſeemed to be moſt ſuitable, even on the ſight of our deſolations, and where was a fog ſufficient to damp the heavenly fire, as appeared by the vacancies in the ſeats of many.

25. Celebrated my birth-day, being my 66th year, concluding an awful period!

I ſaid, I will now make my ſolemn retreat from the world: be it in thy counſel, good Lord! No new ſchemes, but the diſpatch of of the old, and digeſting paſt labours.

On the ſurvey made this day, I am rich enough, and moſt happily free from thoſe cares which diſtract thouſands, and choak the good ſeed.

29. Did Chriſt the Lord offer prayers and ſupplications, with ſtrong crying and tears? (Heb. v.) and haſt thou no occaſion to offer either? View thy own heart, and view the

ſtate

ſtate of the church, and thou wilt find abundant occaſion for theſe: Lord, quicken!

30. For giving leiſure to correct my defects and errors in a publick way, to proceed in fulfilling my engagements in Natural Hiſtory; for vigour of body and mind in improving the Materia Medica; and, above all, for plenty of ſpiritual books, particularly thoſe on the Old and New Teſtament, tending to exalt Chriſt Jeſus; for all theſe uncommon favours, bleſſed be the God of nature and of grace!

On reading Watts's Conqueſt over Death, more tears of joy than for many months paſt: O, bleſſed be the Lord for ſuch burning and ſhining lights, and for placing them before me! and for this triumph of grace over nature!

31. It looks as if the reſidue of my ſpiritual work were to be chiefly cloſet-work.

First Month 1765.

1. Read the divine Watts on the State of ſeparate Spirits, being a peep into heaven from earth.

A pertinent and truly plauſible obſervation in that author is, that in the future ſtate we ſhall know incomparably more of nature than we do now; and for this weighty reaſon, that God is far from being comprehended and

praiſed enough, even in his works of nature; wherein alſo, as well as in thoſe of grace, we only ſee his ſkirts, and no more.

8. Gripes from exceſs: recurred to Celſus's preſcription, bread and water for dinner.

Saw in the clear viſion at meeting, that God did not deſign this for a place of reſt or ſolid ſatisfaction; but that the Chriſtian's ſabbath is in heaven only: the vaſt obſcurity and confuſion in medical ſcience ſtrongly confirmed this truth.

9. Truth is fallen in the ſtreets, and our Iſrael is in captivity, as ſurely as Iſrael outward was in Babylon: who then can ſing? But thou thyſelf art only on the road to the heavenly Jeruſalem: therefore, boaſt not.

At a ſilent meeting: a ſweet attraction upwards, above all the concerns of fleſh and blood, and to more fruitfulneſs.

12, Catched a little of the heavenly fire from my neighbours, who make a proper preparation for leiſure on the firſt day of the week, as a type of the everlaſting ſabbath.

13. A righteous appearance at meeting in a member of low degree, in offering a ſingle query to the lukewarm and formal.

17. Took a review of my Spiritual Diary, which indeed was very humbling: for on my ſide attended a ſeries of temptations, weakneſſes, ſins, buffetings of Satan, ſtruggles in the holy warfare, ſelf-contempt, and contempt of others, imperfections in nature and in grace:

grace: ſometimes abſtinence and faſting; ſometimes a tendency to the reverſe; a miſerable ſtate of the church, and of our medical ſtate: a pilgrim's life, and what none but a fool can be fond of: thus far extended the review on my ſide: but on the Lord's appeared goodneſs, long forbearance, and a holy attraction of my ſoul to heavenly objects.

19. Seven o'clock. O the time loſt in ſleep! The poor eyes ſeem to require a little indulgence.

20. The morning meeting dull, from the fumes of indigeſtion: however, the fire on the altar not out.

24. Omitted yeſterday the proper improvement of an opportunity of rebuking ſome idlers in our ſpiritual vineyard. O my barrenneſs!

25. Anger quick on a certain provocation, which embittered to me the ſubſequent meeting, ſenſible, however, that the ſentence, "He that is filthy, let him be filthy ſtill," is not yet gone forth.

27. At meeting, and repeatedly ſince; that text, "Every branch in me (the vine) that bringeth forth fruit, my Father purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit," was loudly ſounded in my interior.

29. A ſweet acceſs in prayer early.

30. O my barrenneſs in yeſterday's converſe: I was dumb on two occaſions of rebuke. I will dwell in the valley, and endeavour to get an opportunity.

31. A

31. A conſolating review of my Spiritual Diary to the end of 1763, even from a conviction of God's ſignal goodneſs to me.

Good news from Derry: their play-houſe is tranſmuted into a preaching-houſe.

SECOND MONTH 1765.

Eight hours, ⅓ of the twenty-four in ſleep, does not ſuit to my profeſſion of redeeming the time: Soul, awake! thou art on the brink of eternity.

Lord, give me more of the ſpirit of Joſeph in Egypt, ſaying, "How ſhall I do this evil, and ſin againſt my God?" This to be revived, and applied to every temptation, even to drinking and eating, that God's temple be not defiled.

Remember, thy fear of God, even of offending him, will undoubtedly riſe in proportion to thy love of him.

13. As overſeer of the conduct of meetings for worſhip, are not ſome neceſſary ſervices omitted? Are we not deficient? v. g. In reproof for late coming, and for neglect of afternoon meetings, for ſleeping, or any other bad conduct there, as well as in the miniſtry? Lord, make us more fruitful!

15. At a ſilent meeting: let thy love of the world bear ſome proportion to thy future ſhort ſtay in it!

19. An

19. An error too frequent and hurtful is the omiſſion of chewing the cud after a religious meeting, and after a pious reading, even a too haſty entrance upon temporals.

Bleſſed be the Lord, who, on the other ſide of the water, is raiſing up a younger ſucceſſion of miniſters, exemplified this day in moſt pertinent exhibitions and diſplays of God's wonderful goodneſs and long forbearance: adorable goodneſs indeed, in thus viſiting and calling on the careleſs; and incomprehenſible, not conducted according to our narrow views: theſe are wonders in grace, above thoſe in nature, as heaven is above earth.

THIRD MONTH 1765.

1. Held our monthly conference: I think we hold on our way, but have abundant cauſe of humiliation, eſpecially I.

Poſſeſſed my ſoul in a degree of an aſſurance of God's love, in drawing me on to ſuperior heights of purity, and of my ſins being drowned in the ocean of his love.

3. Afternoon meeting ſilent and dull, yet the fire not quite out. An omiſſion of duty there, in not ſtirring up to attendance on diſcipline meetings.

8. At a ſilent meeting: a ſweet luminous time.

12. Now, Lord, ſteer in the holy mediocrity, or rather in a prevailing heavenly mindedneſs,

edneſs, even in proportion to the haſtening of the day of account.

14. Watts, thou reaſoneſt well: ſurely this world is not, nor ever ſhall be, my paradiſe; nor indeed is it to any but fools and blind, who, in the ſequel, ever find themſelves diſappointed: O then the glory and beauty of the goſpel light, the proſpect of a paradiſe elſewhere indeed! Lord, prepare! create a clean heart, a fitneſs for mingling with the better company above!

This day opened Watts on Prayer, a precious treaſure and gift of God to me: I wiſh the book were ſpread from Dan to Beerſheba, notwithſtanding the beauteous ſimplicity that ſometimes attends our artleſs prayers.

17. A long-ſuffering God is ſtill ſtretching out his hand to us, in viſiting us in a moſt affectionate and earneſt expoſtulation, in a little tract publiſhed for our uſe by John Griffith, moſt pertinently adapted to theſe perilous times: nevertheleſs, in the ſequel, it appeared that the people are aſleep: for few ſought after this book.

19. My lot is chiefly among the poor: Lord, give to reliſh the beauty of this ſite!

20. The upper region a little clouded by an inadvertent over-doſe of ſpirits. "I will, ſaid an old ſaint, ſet a watch before the door of my lips."

22. A ſenſible improvement in the holy exerciſe of prayer in its ſeveral branches deſcribed in the divine Watts, inſpiring more humility,

humility, more love, more joy, yea, and more ſorrow for ſin.

A ſilent, but profitable meeting, even in a holy contempt of this world, and a comfortable view of the glory of this goſpel-day.

Doddridge's inſtructions of daily uſe: even our very thoughts in ſolitude ſhould be governed, being often vain and trifling, inſtead of profitable ſubjects, as the perfections of God, the love of God in Chriſt, the value of time, and the ſtate of our ſouls, or the laſt portions of ſcripture we have read, or the laſt ſermon we heard.

In the evening, to pray for forgiveneſs for the omiſſions or ſins of the day; to praiſe God for mercies received; to pray for particular perſons: to query, what time have I loſt this day, and how guarded againſt temptation? And am I ready to die, and to renew thoſe actings of faith and repentance, which we ſhould judge neceſſary, if we were to wake no more?

24. A large congregation and ſchool in two conſiderable places have few or no miniſters: God is withdrawing the clouds: will he alſo take away the hedge? as in Iſaiah v. 5. Shall we not call for the mourning women?

25. Nine patients, moſtly paupers.

Spent the morning ſweetly in the divine Watts on Prayer: God is bountiful in ſweetening my ſolitude with ſuch heavenly company.

26. God

26. God gives wiſdom to expedite and diſpoſe of my temporal labours, in a view of my impending change.

27. At a ſilent meeting, was confirmed in a clear ſight of the tranſcendently ſuperior glory of the goſpel-worſhip to the temple-worſhip of the Jews, being not confined to time nor place.

31. At another ſilent meeting: a clear and lively ſenſe of divine goodneſs in a holy attraction to ſuperior heights of purity and love; ſo draw, good Lord, and I will follow!

A miſerable afternoon meeting: the fire among the females is extinguiſhed by a little rain: reſolved, not to look out.

Jogged my brethren-Levites or ark-bearers.

FOURTH MONTH 1765.

1. Opened our monthly conference.

QUEST. What lack I yet?

ANSW. An increaſe of the love of God.

Proceeded in the office of ark-bearer, not altogether without encouragement, in a viſit to a backſlider.

2. Late at meeting for want of due forecaſt.

5. At a ſilent meeting were preſented to my view the inexpreſſible ſufferings of our Lord, the agony in the garden, and the deſertion on the croſs: ſurely not for his own ſake, but ours: I adore what I cannot comprehend.

prehend. Add to this, the glorious privilege of a deliverance from the bondage of ceremonies, by the hand-writing of ordinances nailed to the croſs. Now, how far do we participate of the fellowſhip of theſe ſufferings? Truly, very little.

6. Paid a viſit to a neighbouring meeting after an abſence of two years. O my barrenneſs! A brother elder was a help to me: however, I cover my face, and take ſhame and guilt upon me in a ſenſe of my deficiency.

14. Grace reigned over nature, bleſſed be the Lord!

A viſit to a lapſed brother, with a good reception; go on: exerciſe will brighten thy talent, and open opportunities of doing good, which thou canſt not foreſee.

15. O the deſolations of Sion! O the weakneſs of our pillars, and the feebleneſs of our miniſtry! Lord, look down! and ſupport my feeble ſoul, leſt I periſh with the revolting multitude! Surely, it is hard to ſtand in the rapid, ſtrong torrent of prevailing apoſtacy.

17. God is teaching to number my days—but, O my groveling heart! Lord, continue thy holy violence in drawing it upwards!

I find the country retreat very improving in ſpirituals and naturals.

18. What are the late frequent comments and elucidations of the holy ſcriptures publiſhed, but God's alarming voice, to awaken us, in the riches of his goodneſs, goodneſs

unutterable, and infinitely tranſcending that of man, extended to an unworthy world?

We cannot indeed ſay with our Proteſtant brethren, "We have ratified the holy covenant (even that with the Father by the ſacrifice of his Son) at the table, called the Lord's table, and that we have been devoted to the Lord by the initial ordinance of water-baptiſm:" but, we have however in reality, as members of this ſociety, entered into no leſs than *a ſolemn league and covenant*, that we will be reſponſible to the yearly, national, and provincial meetings, in an obligation to anſwer the reſpective important queries by them eſtabliſhed with our own conſent: we alſo, by our exterior appearance in ſpeech and habit, and repeated declarations, have held forth to the world a renunciation of its vain honours, profits, and pleaſures: wherefore, in point of obligation to a ſtrict and holy walking, we are not a whit behind, but rather before our neighbours.

Thomas à Kempis is one of my companions in ſolitude; and, bleſſed be the Lord, I reliſh him better than ever.

20. At a ſilent meeting, received as oracular, or the voice of God to me, "Thou muſt ſtudy nature leſs, and grace more."

The clouds are in a great meaſure withdrawn; but the hedge is yet preſerved, particularly on a late attempt to break it down, bleſſed be the Lord! But we want more labourers: Lord, pity!

21. O

21. O my barrenneſs in yeſterday's rencounter with a carnal profeſſor!

A ſweet illumination at a ſilent meeting, to the following purpoſe, but not with authority to deliver it, viz. "The duty of prayer is incumbent on every ſoul preſent, though preaching is not."

Saw my ſituation in this world, even low and humble, and rejoiced in it, and in the meanneſs of my offerings, viz. As it were, a pair of young pigeons only. Lord, give to ſee the real extent of my gift!

22. I do not yet live up fully to my profeſſion: Lord, purge from this hypocriſy!

23. The watch-word now ſeems to be this: "Be without carefulneſs as to the world, and do leſs in nature, and trim thy lamp, and get ready."

O for more of the filial fear of God in my bodily refreſhments!

A dolorous piece of news: "Only two children, or boys, to repreſent our metropolis at the province!" O the world, the world!

25. Fretful under unſeaſonable calls: Lord, ſweeten!

O my deceitful heart! I formerly when younger, and had a 60th year in proſpect, ſaid, 'If I arrive at that age, I will be eaſy as to temporals;' but now, through a wonder of mercy, I am arrived at my 67th. I find myſelf ſtill to be not ſo eaſy, nor to have ſo much of that holy careleſſneſs the apoſtle re-

commends, as I ought: true, I decline new purſuits, but ſtill it is not without a degree of holy violence, that my ever-groveling heart is drawn upwards.

Firm and immoveable I hope I am, in the belief of a better ſtate: the evidence for it ariſes ſtrong, even from the imperfections of the preſent: Lord, prepare for the ſuperior excellencies of that country, of which we have but a faint proſpect!

28. Watts moſt excellently points out the defects and miſchiefs of a confinement to ſet forms of prayer: and indeed Biſhop Wilkins goes as far too. Bleſſed be the Lord for thus diffuſing the light of his truth among us of this age and nation! Learn hence to acknowledge ſuch for Chriſtian brethren.

28. Repeated the cvith pſalm, which appeared to me to be a deſcription of the follies and ſins of this ſociety in general, viz. "They ſoon forgat his works, they waited not for his counſel, but luſted exceedingly in the wilderneſs, and tempted God in the deſart; and he gave them their requeſt, but ſent leanneſs into their ſoul."

29. [s] *Sapere aude:* be not aſhamed of Chriſt in this degenerate age. Learn to mourn: thoſe that are ſmitten turn not. The appointed of men are not always appointed of God, nor ſpirited for the work, but ſtupid

[s] Dare to be wiſe.

and

and aſleep. I am as a ſparrow on the houſe-top. Lord, ſtrengthen!

N. B. Revive the practice of walking ſolitarily after a meeting, even a ſilent one, in order to let the good impreſſions received ſink deep.

30. Diſcipline-meeting laborious, with a good degree of activity and honeſty.

FIFTH MONTH 1765.

1. The compariſon between my brother and me ſtood thus: his ſituation is chiefly among young and weak believers, mine among the elder, lukewarm, and formal: he has more conſolation, but mourning is my portion and labour as a Levite.

Again, neither of us is free from ſin, but we hope we are ſo far quickened in the ſpiritual life, as to deem thoſe ſins great, which a ſtupid world calls little, venial, or none at all; and what they are very eaſy under, we groan under.

4. Much in arrear to my ſoul, not to my body: the concerns of this laſt frequently encroach on thoſe of the other: but remember well, fleſh and blood is not the heir.

"In deaths often," ſaid the apoſtle, and ſo am I, my acquaintances yearly, monthly, weekly, daily, ſinking by my ſide into the land of oblivion.

5. At the afternoon meeting, a kind of laſt call, as it were, with a threatened deſertion

and departure to the highways and hedges, that the Lord's table may be filled. 'I pity our youth,' ſaid one, and ſo do I, but would gladly entertain a hope of a viſitation to them, and that God will raiſe up more labourers from among them: ſo Lord, raiſe!

7. Herein this day ſhone our miniſtry, even in directing the people, not to themſelves, as others do, ſo far, that without man there is no worſhip, (for we have learned better things) but to the gift of God in themſelves.

8. A little of the new ſong in the night.

9. The ſelect meeting was hurt by too heavy a dinner preceding.

A ſweet call to the youth in ſeveral concurrent declarations this day, convincing that God's ways and mercies are infinitely above thoſe of men.

12. A good deal of diſcourſe about admoniſhing parents with reſpect to the religious education of their children: but, in the name of truth, how ſhall this be done, if both overſeers and viſitors are extinct?

Answ. God can raiſe up occaſional and voluntary viſitors and overſeers.

At a ſilent meeting, a retreat from the world was founded in the name of the Lord Jeſus.

13. My patience was overcome by the multitude of patients. O my weakneſs and ſin!

19. The morning meeting very poor, with flatulence, and the exhibitions very unſatisfactory.

tory. The afternoon ſilent, and ſome nearer acceſs to the throne of grace.

20. A prayer for the preſent ſtate: Lord, ſend forth more labourers! Remember the deſolations of our Sion!

Be continually preſent with me, to raiſe my groveling heart from natural to ſpiritual objects!

Give me to be a real Quaker! Give the ſpirit, the power, the life of the words!

Bleſſed be thy goodneſs, Lord, for the dew of heaven, and preſerve from being ſurfeited with the fatneſs of the earth!

Grant me to die daily, and to wait, expect, and prepare for the awful, haſtening day of account, and the diſſolution of this mortal part.

22. A laborious day in nature and in grace. At the youth's meeting, diſcharged my conſcience, though weakly.

26. Firſt day of the week. At five in the morning: thus roſe, in order to redeem, in ſome meaſure, that great treaſure of time, which hath hitherto been enormouſly devoted to the meer concerns of fleſh and blood, under the ſpecious maſk of moral righteouſneſs: but now the goſpel-trumpet ſounds, and bids haſten to get arrayed with the evangelical, even that righteouſneſs which is by faith in Chriſt Jeſus, the ſearcher of hearts, and judge of quick and dead.

Behold, a gracious Providence invites thee to a holy ardour in redeeming thy time, in reading

reading those precious books sent to thee for elucidating the holy scriptures, and applying the wholesome soul-saving truths therein contained.

O the time, toils, and travels in writing, reading, and visiting, that have been spent on temporals! Ascend now, O my soul, to sublimer objects!

Every faithful minister is much greater than the greatest physician: this at most cures but the body, the other is one means of giving life eternal to the soul. Thus, let physic dwindle into comparative contempt!

Doddridge, in his Rise and Progress of Religion in the Soul, is an able spiritual physician, tracing the several diseases of the mind from the first awakening, to complete redemption and salvation. I will dwell in the valley, and vail to him.

O the adorable goodness of God to me an idolater, who now sees his specious moral righteousness to have been no better than a splendid sin!

Verily, this was the Lord's day, and I was glad in it.

28. Five o'clock. O thou hydrologist, who art tracing the virtues of waters, and other matters, in vomiting, loss of appetite, and digestion; view the spiritual maladies analogous to these, viz. Loathing and rejecting, not digesting the word preached, and want of the hunger and thirst after righteousness: these are

are diſeaſes of the mind, and ſolid realities, and of worſe conſequence than the bodily.

I do view, and bleſs thee, Lord, who haſt healed me in theſe reſpects, and I humbly hope, and am thankful for it, that this is the well of water which ſhall ſpring up in me to eternal life.

29. Brittle on an unſeaſonable call.

31. At the ſelect meeting offered a few words of encouragement.

At the quarterly meeting: the miniſtry is chiefly in female hands, and I muſt ſay, to very good purpoſe, and to the glory of God, who, by weak things, can effect great ones; but, at the ſame time, to the great reproach of the men.

Affecting of play-houſes detected: the female ſchool was viſited.

Some ſuggeſtions of ſpiritual pride: Lucifer, take them to thyſelf!

Sixth Month 1765.

5. Returned from the quarterly meeting. What is the reſult?

Answ. "Bleſſed are they that mourn:" for verily, if the miniſtry and preſbytery have been clear-ſighted, our ſtate is truly lamentable: the youth flying away, and the elder buried in the earth: is this a time for rejoicing, or for pampering the fleſh? Verily nay, and

ſo

ſo I join the mourning few: and God is giving a bleſſed leiſure from ſecular engagements.

7. Rouſe, ſoul! Canſt thou ſee a glory in healing the poor, or not? How is thy ſpiritual ſight?

† 9. 30 min. paſt 5. The holy ſtruggle is maintained; and I humbly hope grace has the aſcendant: but, O my groveling heart!

10. Lord, thou haſt loaded me with benefits, in enlightening me in matters of duty, in ſhewing the vaſt extent of thy law: may fruits correſpondent appear!

Held our monthly conference, by which it appears, that a heart-ſearching God is at work upon us, and diſcovering to us our ſins, as motes in a bright ſun.

11. A view of God's infinitely ſuperior majeſty and wiſdom, in whoſe hands our life and breath are, with whom are fixed the bounds of our habitation, and whoſe eye ſurveys all ages from the beginning of the world to the end of it. O what am I in his preſence!

The diſcipline-meeting extremely heavy and laborious: diſcharged my conſcience there weakly, and could hardly ſpeak.

A great hardſhip there on brother G. He muſt be both ſcribe and dictator. O ſtupid people!

12. May I diligently attend to reading and prayer; and when I daily review my conduct, may it be with an impartial eye! May ſelf-love not ſpread a falſe covering over it!

14. In

14. In the name of the Lord Jeſus, I ſet up evening as well as morning prayer daily, and upon the knees too.

At a ſilent meeting: O how broad thy law! Particularly, I fall ſhort of Doddridge's Plan of the Chriſtian Life and Temper.

That meeting was very dull, with a moiſt atmoſphere: however, the fire of the altar was not out.

16. Saw and adored the divine goodneſs in the yearly meeting's epiſtle, even in their ſpirited addreſs to the preſent lukewarm race, on the general neglect of the publick worſhip of God.

21. A degree of tremour on a ſight of the impending work of pruning and drawing lines of ſeparation in our ſpiritual vineyard, in the exerciſe of Chriſtian diſcipline, and called for the aſſiſtance of our ſiſters in regard to their ſex: and likewiſe in a ſight of the neceſſity of ſounding an alarm to our brethren who are fallen and falling aſleep, and as dumb dogs. Lord, direct our ſteps!

Remember well, and bear in mind, that the fruit to be produced in thy ſoul, from the peruſal of the divine Watts, is a juſt and thorough contempt of this life, and of all the concerns of fleſh and blood.

Dear G. H. is going his laſt journey; but ſhall all his words, when he is dead, fall to the ground? Surely, nay.

A ſweetly adapted text was publiſhed this day, viz. "That the harveſt is great, and the labourers

labourers few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harveſt to ſend forth more labourers!" ſo let us pray.

24. and 25. A particular call to the youth.

A viſit with a brother to the womens meeting.

O the dignity and the breadth of thy law, O Lord! I am a hypocrite in thy preſence, being ſtill ſhort of a complete conformity to the ſolemn profeſſion I have made both in word and writing. To thy mercy I fly for pardon, and to thy ſpirit for waſhing: O this world! O this heart of mine! Give more of thy love, and then I am ſure of more of thy fear.

At the publick meeting, a mournful righteous ſong, from a ſiſter well ſkilled in the holy ſcience of lamentation, adapted to our times.

At the diſcipline-meeting opened the proſecution of play-haunters, remembering the prophetick words of a ſaint, which I had heard in my youth, viz. "The Lord will ſend forth his huntſmen:" and accordingly an opportunity offered.

27. Lord, ſtrengthen to this arduous taſk of combating with the licentious: give courage! Let us, in thy name, diſcharge one volley upon them, in a holy and dreadful alarm.

In another point of view: certainly the tumour is ripe for opening; and if it be not opened, our ſpiritual body will die of a conſumption. Thou gaveſt courage to open it,

bleſſed

bleſſed be thy goodneſs; but, as there are ſinuoſities, give us alſo more courage to purſue the operation! and preſerve our poor ſouls in innocence, leſt, while we condemn others, we ourſelves be condemned of thee!

Take courage, O my ſoul! The ſaints on the other ſide the water are with us: and a glorious piece of news lately arrived from thence, viz. That notwithſtanding the famine of the word external, a ſpirit is ariſen for preſerving good order in the church.

30. Purſued our appointment, as inſpectors of play-haunters, and had an open concurrence of the miniſtry in this work.

SEVENTH MONTH 1765.

1. The upper ſeat entirely ſtript of miniſters: an awful period!

2. At the burial of the laſt miniſter who ſat there, it was a glorious day in the teſtimonies exhibited: and I ſaid, I will truſt in the Lord, who knoweth our ſtate altogether, how deplorable ſoever.

3. Held our monthly conference.

My brother's forecaſt and preparation for impending temptations is worthy of all commendation and imitation.

He ſees ſome ſin or iniquity, even in his holy things. (See Exod. xxviii. 38. Lev. vii. 15, 16.) viz. A defect of prudence and love

in the exercise of admonition: Lord, keep us thus humble, and in a growing state!

God crowned this day with a joyous profusion of tears in a sense of his goodness.

5. Saw that I do too much in nature, and too little in grace; and so turned about this day.

Wholesome, sweet counsel imparted this day, in reference to a visible neglect of attendance at religious meetings by children and servants on week-days.

8. A day of mourning. 1. For the groveling state of my own heart, and my manifold infirmities. 2. For the stupidity of others, and for the sleepiness of our watchmen. 3. For the want of gospel-rain. 4. For the ignorance and wildness of our youth. 5. For my own barrenness. 6. For the loss of my late spiritual associate.

9. Seven patients, paupers, in Canaan's glorious, in the world's language, pitiful.

Read an account of a new corporeal disease called the Croup; but my view was directed thence to the view of a new spiritual disease, and of a bad prognostick, viz. Play-haunting.

11. Vigorous in body and mind: I hope God is opening my way for occasional visits in the drawings of love, many going astray into pernicious ways: in another point of view, the spiritual leprosy and palsy are upon them: is there no balm in Gilead, no spiritual physician in Dublin?

12. Pro-

12. Propoſed, ſilently, to make a viſit to forty families, and take a brother with me from the neighbourhood, on occaſion of vain recreations. The Jews were encouraged to rebuild the temple by the prophets, and ſo are we; and by the elders here and elſewhere, and even called upon by ſtrangers in effect: may the eye of that God that was upon them, be upon us; for ſurely we ſeek not ourſelves, but them.

At a ſilent meeting, ſat at wiſdom's gates, and was encouraged in the above work upon every conſideration.

15. The extenſive work of an elder ſeems to come home to me: and ſurely, in the ſpiritual vineyard, diggers and pruners are as neceſſary as planters and waterers. But wouldſt thou indeed put grey hairs upon the heads of children? No: but, however, alarm them of their apoſtacy, leſt their blood be on thy head.

16. Why not remember the apoſtates in my daily prayer? Verily, we are aſleep: Lord, awaken!

18. No male miniſter, nor eſtabliſhed overſeer in our metropolis, where moſt wanting: Oh, oh! Surely there is a better country. Known unto thee, Lord, is our ſtate, and what will be the iſſue thereof: to thee do I commit myſelf: direct thou my ſteps on this occaſion!

General preaching is not ſufficient; but a co-operation of elders in the communion of

ſaints, and application to individuals, is neceſſary; but where, O where, are the men to fill up this office!

Such were the dolorous meditations of this day, being a partial faſt on this mournful occaſion, with dinner on bread and water.

Obſerve Nehemiah's zeal in reforming abuſes, two of which are our reigning ones. 1. What is analogous to breaking the ſabbath? An open deſertion of the greater part (three out of four) of the meetings appropriated to the worſhip of God, notwithſtanding all remonſtrances. 2. Marriages with aliens. Lord, help!

19. A ſweet humbling ſenſe of the ſuperiority to me of every faithful miniſter, and a knitting of heart to ſuch, like that of Jonathan's to David.

Publick preaching, in regard to vain recreations, hath been tried: in the name of the Lord, let the holy diſcipline be now tried on individuals: and ſhall it, I hope it never ſhall, be ſaid, here is a vineyard, but no diggers nor pruners? And ſuppoſe we fail of all the ſucceſs deſired, and that ſome of the ground proves ſtony; this is no worſe a ſtate than attended the labourers formerly; nay, our Lord himſelf was rejected by his brethren, and ſo we muſt chearfully ſubmit to ſuffering; but ſurely the word ſhall not return altogether void.

20. Viſited, taking a brother with me, a play-haunter, and left with him a ſpiritual book.

23. Our

23. Our church is in a lethargy: ſhe muſt be emptied and bliſtered, and her ſores muſt be laid open; and wo to them that heal deceitfully: Lord, help my feeble ſoul!

By an infallible ſtandard, I am one of the leaſt of the Lord's ſervants. Where then is boaſting?

25. Purſued my Materia Medica ſmartly, and with ſweetneſs enjoyed the now digeſted labours of my youth on this ſubject.

30. At a ſilent meeting, two ſweet and ſtrong impreſſions. 1. That, forlorn as our ſpiritual ſtate is, the Lord knoweth it. 2. In a ſenſe of inbred corruption, I cried out, O my groveling heart, ever prone to earthly things, the meer concerns of fleſh and blood! But, bleſſed be the Lord, I feel a ſuperior power drawing upwards, even whilſt in me dwelleth no good thing.

Surely, there muſt be a better country.

A good many children, and no inſtructors at the meeting: what will become of us, good Lord?

A rencounter with Sanballat in weakneſs.

EIGHTH MONTH 1765.

1. Occaſional ſpiritual viſits multiply, and I believe ſolid benefit unknown may and will ariſe therefrom.

What lack I yet?

Answ. More faith, more love, and a greater degree of every Chriſtian grace.

2. Held our monthly conference: we truſt we are travelling on with ſome degree of ſucceſs, though not without weakneſſes, and ſome alloy of ſin.

Five in the morning, winter and ſummer, is the eſtabliſhed hour for riſing among ſome Chriſtians. On the other hand, is not this a great rebuke upon us, many of whom will not meet at ten. What wonder then that ſuch ſluggards ſhould be clothed with rags?

7. God gave courage to aſſert the good cauſe among backſliders.

Sick of the world, and ſick of the church alſo in its preſent ſtate.

8. Thou art not a whit better than a pardoned criminal, in the ſight of God; wherefore, ſee that thou extend pity to brethren in iniquity.

9. In the courſe of the late occaſional viſits, met with ſeveral, and even ſome among the elders, in the ſpirit of Tobias and Sanballat; however, in the courſe of the viſits, I found that it was good to be doing, one thing frequently bringing on another not thought of.

13. A ſweet retreat from the world, with ſomething of a ſong of praiſe. Reſolved to proceed on the occaſional ſpiritual viſit, maugre all oppoſition of men, the world, and Devils: good Lord, help!

15. Saw

15. Saw my ſpiritual barrenneſs and poverty in the clear viſion, and ſaid, O Lord, keep me in this valley of humiliation.

18. With an honeſt induſtry ſucceeded happily in the nomination of overſeers.

20. A prayerleſs morning, from the heavineſs of the body.

23. A vicious feaſt, wherein I exceeded in meat and drink, for want of circumſpection and prudence, a ſin againſt God, the framer of the conſtitution, and not leſs than defiling his temple: O God, in the name of thy Beloved, pardon this ſin, and prevent for the future, I beſeech thee: give more of thy fear!

24. What wonder, at the preſent withdrawing of the clouds, is the ſuſpenſion of the rain of the goſpel? We are not worthy of the continuance of it, having not brought forth grapes, but the briars and thorns of covetouſneſs, and love of the world.

25. I fear, with reſpect to ſtudies, that nature predominates over grace, and that I do not yet love God above all.

On occaſion of the ſlip above-mentioned (23.) I ſaid, I will fight the Devil with his own weapons, and double my guard.

26. Attended nine patients, ſix of which were the glorious poor, though with the croſs, being detained thereby from important ſtudies.

NINTH MONTH 1765.

1. In a ſtruggle, grace triumphed over nature, with regard to the ſoul's concerns.

2. God is ſtirring up to more activity in divers neceſſary labours, in the preſbytery; but I muſt ſtill look to myſelf firſt.

I have far better opportunities for growth in grace than either my father or brother, but I do not think I am better in proportion.

3. The ſpirit of holy diſcipline languiſhes greatly: not members enough to tranſact the buſineſs of the meeting: I very feeble there. Lord, give better company! In thee alone do I truſt.

4. A curious caſe of conſcience occurred among ſome ſheep not of our fold, the determination of which was ſo equitable and evangelical, that I here record it, viz. A perſon, who had wronged another, was conſcientiouſly engaged to make reſtitution, and brought the money to the full value; but the perſon whom he had wronged was dead, or inacceſſible. Now the query was, whether the debt muſt die with him? or (here being by ſuppoſition no ſurviving executors or relations) ought this money to be paid to the miniſter of the congregation for the uſe of the church, or given to the poor?

The anſwer was, not to the miniſter, but directly and immediately to the poor, who are the

the Lord's receivers; and accordingly the money was given to them.

11. A ſcheme for reviving the reading the holy ſcriptures at ſchool, (although now become a mixed one of other people) and indeed of the Old and New Teſtament jointly with the reſpective references in the margin of ſome bibles, and what elſe ſhall immediately occur; and this appeared to be, at this juncture, the more neceſſary, foraſmuch as an univerſal neglect of theſe writings hath ſpread over both prieſt and people.

13. A ſilent meeting: no miniſter beſides Chriſt himſelf: Lord, ſend forth thy light and thy truth!

16. A ſweeter and more open acceſs to the Lord in evening prayer than uſual, with ſome tears of joy (a rarity with me).

17. Upheld in weakneſs our Chriſtian teſtimony againſt pleaſures and paſtimes, in the diſcipline-meeting.

20. A memorable phenomenon in grace: an Engliſh preſbytery lately, and now an Iriſh one, in theſe times of great deſolation, are ſtrenuouſly exerciſed in performing their national viſits. Lord, bleſs their labours, and my diminutive ones alſo, who am moving in a lower ſphere, an attention to the diſeaſes of the body, and but little to the infinitely more important ones, thoſe of the ſoul!

Quickened up to more fruitfulneſs by a lively miniſtry. O my ſoul, awake! for the night haſtens, in which no man can work.

Suppoſe

Suppoſe I had been cut off in my idolatry, where had I now been? Behold, this is thy day, and precious opportunity!

21. New ſcenes of duty, in religious viſits neceſſary to be performed, open weekly, nay, daily: Lord, ſtrengthen!

22. Drew up a paper againſt play-haunting.

23. An increaſe of faith, bleſſed be the Lord! and likewiſe for giving help-meets.

O my weakneſs in the late diſcipline-meeting! Lord, lift up my drooping ſpirit in ſupport of the good cauſe!

26. God's curſe upon his ancient vineyard is in part executed on us, viz. "I will command the clouds not to rain upon it:" but, who ſuffers moſt by this!

Answ. Not thoſe whoſe eyes are in their head, but thoſe whoſe eyes are in the ends of the earth: theſe, in the preſent circumſtances, are as the parched heath in the deſert, and ſeveral of them are now complaining; but God is juſt in all his diſpenſations.

27. At a church-conference: great heavineſs and impotence of ſpeaking with a due emphaſis on an important occaſion, and ſome oppoſition: bleſſed be God that I have the honour of ſuffering a little for truth.

A ſweet ſuggeſtion in the light of love, tending to prevent diſcord with a weak, but valuable brother.

28. A ſweet morning, with a ſong: methinks I am an antitypal Levite, viz. A burden-bearer and ſinger, bleſſed be the Lord!

Now,

Now, now on the withdrawing of the clouds, is the day of trial, viz. Who do, and who do not, make God their refuge.

29. An illumination in regard to the religious education of youth. This was broached with difficulty, and, in the ſequel, ſome part of it induſtriouſly executed, I hope to their benefit and my own: ſuch is the excellency of the heavenly treaſure, that it does not loſe by communication.

Tenth Month 1765.

2. My brother labours in the goſpel, I in the preſbytery; and in this I praiſed God, that what in ſpeculation was the joy of my youth, is now in practice the exerciſe, and (in Canaan's language) the glory of my old age.

At our monthly conference, ſome real progreſſive motion and holy activity is experienced, bleſſed be the Lord; and, I think, leſs of ſin, and of infirmities than laſt month; and, I hope, more contempt of this world, with ſweet aſpirations to the better one.

Read Watts on Prayer, and by his inſtructive leading-ſtrings was drawn into a large field of prayer, ſuch as I had never experienced before.

The Lord was with me in my feaſting, ſetting bounds to the beſtial appetite.

7. Sinfully impatient with patients.

8. Yeſter-

8. Yeſternight, at my retirement, was drawn on to about half an hour's extraordinary ſoliloquy, and communion with my Maker.

9. Lord, help in the approaching general viſit of the preſbytery! Be unto them and us wiſdom, ſtrength, courage, and honeſty! Bleſſed be thy goodneſs, who haſt not yet forſaken a rebellious people!

10. Bleſſed be the God of my life, who has brought me to be a witneſs of this day's exerciſe, even the ſecond general viſit and ſpiritual inqueſt now made, in which God ſearched our "Jeruſalem as with candles;" and that text, "He that covereth his ſins ſhall not proſper," was applicable.

Six weeks were ſpent in this laborious ſervice; whilſt I am confined to one meeting, and to a certain branch of phyſick, requiſite to be finiſhed, if the Lord will, before night.

Lord, raiſe up others, even Ezras and Nehemiahs!

A jealouſy, on the introductory declaration, that I do not yet love God above all. Lord, lift up my groveling heart!

The meeting was held accordingly, and a faithful repreſentation given of the ſickly ſtate of the church, with ſuitable exhortations.

On the whole, the wounds of the daughter of Sion are laid open; but who ſhall heal them? Verily, man cannot do this work: nothing but a change of heart from the Lord can effect it.

12. I

12. I query now, upon a review of the late inqueſt, what is my portion of ſin in the Lord's preſence?

Answ. Some degree of intemperance in natural ſtudies: hence the ſnappiſhneſs ſometimes breaking forth on calls to poor patients, whilſt engaged in thoſe ſtudies: for, did the love of my neighbour abound as it ought, no ſuch thing would appear: ſo Lord, waſh, and let my purgatory be experienced here! I will not cover my ſin, but lay it open to thy holy fire; and humbly hope it ſhall be taken away, and the debt cancelled by thy love in thy beloved Son!

† 13. 30 min. paſt 7. Thus did this day open with ſin, even ſloth in lying in bed till this time, and idle dreams, inſtead of exerciſing a holy vigil, cold weather prompting, and the fleſh drawing to ſinful indulgence: Lord, I repent, and deplore this clog of fleſh and blood!

The meeting was well conducted miniſterially by one of low degree, bleſſed be the Lord!

16. A ſweet tranſporting view of that divine ſaying of the Lord, "He that is greateſt among you, ſhall be ſervant of all."

18. A miſerably thin congregation: things ſeem to grow worſe and worſe, notwithſtanding all remonſtrances.

20. Remember thy poſt as overſeer, and tremble.

22. Hath not the Lord ſet bounds to my natural purſuits? Yea, bleſſed be his goodneſs! for in the holy ſtruggle grace prevails, and I am detained from new ſchemes, and devoted to the purſuit of one thing in view, with little interruption; and I humbly hope, to the one thing needful alſo: ſhall I not ſet up my Ebenezer here?

25. God hath favoured me in temporals, with innumerable gracious providences all my life long, as in now crowning my old age, by giving me ſweet communion with the excellent of the earth, and in leiſure to digeſt the labours of my youth (the review of which is pleaſant) and may he render them ſerviceable after my death! This labour, however, is as much inferior to that of the leaſt faithful miniſter of the goſpel, as the body is to the ſoul: but, let not the ſhoemaker go beyond his laſt; yet neglect not to offer this ſacrifice of praiſe to a moſt gracious God, who hath drowned my ſins in the ocean of his love in Chriſt Jeſus: adored be his unmerited goodneſs!

27. Advices to play-haunters read.

ELEVENTH MONTH 1765.

1. Held our monthly conference.

My brother's faith and love are far more vigorous than mine; and what wonder? He takes incomparably more pains in ſpiritual concerns,

concerns, but I am immerſed in thoſe of the body.

Gave up this day to God and my ſoul's concerns, with truſt in God, that he can make up the time, and bring me to the end of my medical labour, if he (whoſe will is the beſt) ſee meet.

3. Our meetings of miniſters and elders were juſtly denominated purging ſeaſons, and there appeared abundant occaſion for ſtirring up elders to vigilance in their overſight.

During the meeting ſeveral church-burdens fell on my ſhoulders, of real importance.

Sol. "Come up higher," ſeemed to be the call of the ſpirit in a ſweet whiſper, viz. That whereas in my addreſs I have treated with the carnal libertines as children, and on their own principles, I ſhould now build on higher principles, even the views of the glories of another world, and the redemption that is to be witneſſed in Chriſt.

5. The elders are gone after covetouſneſs, and what avails ſowing among thorns? Why not rather among the children? Good Lord, direct my ſteps!

O the want of a faithful, heavenly preſbytery! They are buried in the earth, but God can raiſe up others.

6. Brittle yeſter morning, and in the evening ſome buddings of pride and anger; but they did not come forward.

8. A withholding of fees owing to ſome bankruptcies: but my baſis is wider, even on

the poor, and the Lord hath promiſed to be my paymaſter: why then not truſt in him who never fails?

10. Weary of the world, and of formal profeſſors.

11. Opened the new ſchool with reading a portion of the Old and New Teſtament before a mixed company of children.

13. I am now openly liſted in the ſpiritual army, even in now commencing catechiſt: ſoul, tremble! Lord, fit!

14. Sweet content and thankfulneſs to God, for bringing on in the work of the day: but I do not love him enough.

17. The ſilent meeting was humbling: more vigilance is wanting in divers reſpects, and more temperance: a dejection of ſpirits, the genuine and juſt effect of inadvertence, and leſs abſtinence than was proper. A perpetual dependance on God for preſervation is the grand point.

Dinner, bread and water, on principle.

19. The meeting of miniſters and elders, and that of the youth, forgot by us elders.

I will dwell in the valley of ſelf-contempt. My rank in ſpirituals is very low: many ſimple women are greater in the ſight of God than I.

22. On the ſtrong Evidences of the Truth of Chriſtianity, publiſhed by one of the Eſtabliſhment—Are theſe things ſo? Why then not reverence Chriſt more? O my ſtupid heart! O the weakneſs of my faith and love, both in times paſt and preſent! Lord, ſend forth

forth thy light and thy truth, yet to animate more!

Proceeded in reading the ſcriptures, with the references in the margin, preparatory to the ſchool-reading.

24. Great part of both meetings ſilent, and the exhibitions poor, and not ſatisfactory; but a ſweet illumination concerning myſelf, viz. That Thomas Didymus's caſe hath been mine. Lord, give more of the filial fear in my feaſting!

26. At a ſilent meeting, a ſtripping, humbling time, where I firſt learned this ſong: "The Lord is my ſtrength," even in a ſight of my weakneſs and earthly mindedneſs; and that in me dwelleth no good thing.

29. Proceeded in the new office, as volunteer, of reading and ſlightly commenting on the ſcriptures with the young ſcholars: God gave wiſdom; to him be the glory: ſo as I deſcend to their capacities, no matter how mean I appear.

At a ſilent, but luminous meeting, the language of the ſerpent, "Ye ſhall be as Gods," with reſpect to the inordinate purſuit of natural ſcience, was deſcried and falſified, even in the courſe of a gracious Providence extended in a peculiar manner to me.

TWELFTH MONTH 1765.

1. Opens my monthly retreat.

Sixty-ſix $\frac{1}{12}$ years are now paſt: an awful period truly, and juſt about that of my elder brother: do not preſume on more.

I bleſs God he is limiting my temporal views. So limit, good Lord! for, earth has yet too much room in me, and this pitiful profeſſion of patching up mouldering bodies deſtined to deſtruction, and for ever excluded the kingdom of heaven, engroſſes too much of my thoughts.

Sick and low at meeting from flatulence and indigeſtion; wherefore dined on bread and water: certainly more faſting and watching unto prayer are requiſite, on account of our ſpiritual deſolations.

N. B. At the quarterly meeting of miniſters and elders, only three out of ſeven attended: hath the world's ſpirit infected the pillars?

3. A wakefulneſs attending, roſe at three in the morning, and exerciſed ſomething of a holy vigil. Early riſing ever gives me comfort.

Notwithſtanding this, in the courſe of this day, ſaw my weakneſs, with an alloy of ſin, viz. impatience on an unexpected ſudden call to a patient, at which I recoiled, but went.

4. Held our monthly conference.

My brother commences a ſtout and laborious preacher, a fool in the world's language, but

but wiſe in that of Canaan. He has this happineſs, that he waters a thirſty ground, preaching to the hungry and poor in ſpirit: ſhall I not light my dim taper at his flame?

The ſubjects of my new lot are not altogether unlike, even children.

B. a brother got a prize in the lottery, and ſupplied the poor with it, literally laying up treaſure in heaven: a ſhining light in a dark age.

7. God gave integrity to aſſert truth upon earth, when fraud had entered with open face, and the ancient ſimplicity was violated.

8. God, in the courſe of his ſuperintending Providence (whilſt chaſtiſing us in the loſs of the outward riches, by means of ſome ſignal bankruptcies) is teaching us the deceitfulneſs of worldly riches, and the vanity of confidence in man, even in a brother.

12. The grinders fail, and the fleſh is daily waſting, and laſt night had a good deal of the numbneſs: thus God ſpeaketh: may I hear him!

13. My faith in Chriſt was confirmed by the Biſhop's able defence: but, O my ſtupid heart! I am but half awakened: why not in raptures on this glorious occaſion?

14. God is giving a bitter cup, even the fruit of ſome men's own doings, of their ambition and worldly ſpirit: ſorrow and poverty, natural and ſpiritual, are their portion, and partly ours too through their means: we have been deceived and deceiving in our anſwer to the

the query, 'Are friends punctual in their engagements?' O the ſtupidity of the tranſgreſſors, and even of ſeveral raw elders on this occaſion! Let every man teach his neighbour lamentation.

17. Meetneſs for glory and moderation in all temporals, was the watch-word, theſe being the two grand points to be kept in view.

19. Want of circumſpection in regard to the doſe of the drink.

22. Encouraged in the new undertaking of the lecture with the children, on divers conſiderations. 1. The neceſſity of it, from a notorious prevailing defect of faith in Chriſt, which hath overſpread as a leproſy, worſe than the natural one. 2. The ſubjects, children, more tractable than adults, which laſt have proved thorny ground upon trial. 3. My opportunity, as having both leiſure, and a talent of holding up my little taper to the children.

23. Too quick to anger.

24. Diſcipline-meeting laborious, but honeſt in the ſcavenger's way; but few, very few, lay our deſolations to heart: verily, inſtead of uniting as one man, too, too many deſert the holy cauſe of truth upon earth.

28. Sweet content and thankfulneſs, even on the withholding of fees, a junior picking up my crumbs, an event affording a happy leiſure for the great work, the Materia Medica.

29. 30 min. paſt 5. Roſe early on this firſt day of the week, in purſuance of a late reſolution to redeem the ſhort remainder of time, in devoting the morning, particularly of this day, to ſpiritual reading, which has been omitted for a long ſeries of time, through ſtupidity, and too cloſe an attachment to bodily concerns.

30. Frappiſh on two croſs calls.

First Month 1766.

2. At our monthly conference: my brother has mortified his paſſion of anger more than I have.

3. Proceeded on catechiſing the children.

4. Dr. Madden (aged eighty) is deceaſed: to his ghoſt I ſay, which is beſt for thee now, to have devoted 300*l. per annum* for the benefit of the poor, or to have reſerved it for the aggrandizement of thy family? My ſoul, be with thine! I have, bleſſed be God, followed thee in a low ſtation: but am now called to yet ſublimer objects: I have lately ſacrificed the beſt of my time to Jeruſalem's cauſe, and committed my medical affairs, during that ſacrifice, to the Lord.

12. To the fleſh, the meer body, thou haſt ſown abundantly.

Enough of waters, medicines, and diſeaſes of the body: ſublimer objects are in view: open

open the ſpiritual eye wider and wider, good Lord!

At a meeting, compunction for earthly mindedneſs, and a deficiency in three grand points, viz. Meekneſs, temperance, and heavenly mindedneſs; yet ſome truſt in God, and humble hope, that he will improve theſe graces in me.

22. Grace in the holy ſtruggle prevailed over nature.

23. O pitiful elders and overſeers, of the male line! A woman this day took our crowns from us, even in rebuking the late comers, which was our proper province.

SECOND MONTH 1766.

1. What ſhall awaken thee to heavenly mindedneſs? See thy acquaintance around thee dropping into eternity ſwiftly, one after another: view divers menaces of approaching diſſolution in thy own body: ſee alſo the deaths of thy patients, and the miraculous preſervation of thy preſent ſtate of health: but methinks all theſe conſiderations are inſufficient, without ſomething of the heavenly fire: ſo deeply rooted is the love of this frail life. Lord, ſend forth thy light and thy truth!

3. Held our monthly conference: my brother is more looſened from the world than I,

I, yet neither of us wholly free from infirmities nor ſins, though we be daily fighting.

23. The morning meeting was luminous; in the afternoon the fire upon the altar was almoſt out.

Saw clearly, that I have no gift in the miniſtry, which two ſiſters have: So, Lord, magnify thy power and grace by weak things! O my barrenneſs as overſeer: reſolved to be a little more vigilant.

27. Six paupers: brave times in bearing the croſs.

A ſilent meeting, yet ſweet, but humbling, in a view of the adorable gift of the God-man, and humiliation on the ſlight which I, even I, have put upon him; having been inſenſibly involved in the epidemical contempt of him, in the wide ſpread of infidelity and ſcepticiſm which hath for many years infected the people of theſe nations: but I turn about, and look up to him whom I have thus pierced, with a heart-felt ſenſe of my utter weakneſs and inſufficiency, and ſay ſincerely, Lord Jeſus, help, leſt I periſh!

THIRD MONTH 1766.

1. Thou haſt laboured in nature more than moſt of thy fellows, but in grace leſs than thouſands: turn about now, and redeem the time, and particularly, be more diligent in thy overſeerſhip, and care of the epidemical diſeaſes

diſeaſes of the ſoul, even thine own, and thoſe of thy brethren.

Read the book intituled, The Crucified Jeſus, and ſaid in my heart, verily, the author is a ſheep of Chriſt, and his call to thoſe whom he calls the Jew-Chriſtians, agrees exactly to the call of our primitives from all dependence upon externals.

4. Saw the imperfection of my new exerciſe in catechiſing, but reſolved to purſue it, though in weakneſs.

The diſcipline-meeting very heavy, men hardly to be fonnd to perform neceſſary and eſſential ſervices: and upon a review of the late labours of both the Engliſh and Iriſh preſbytery, the people ſtill ſcandalouſly deſert the places of publick worſhip, ſo that an evil heart of unbelief hath entered; and indeed, in a human view, we are upon the brink of a diſſolution; and were it not for ſome degree of truſt in God, who in the worſt of times ſaved a remnant, utter deſpair would take place.

5. Held our monthly conference, in opening our ſouls to each other, and in a mutual confeſſion of our weakneſſes and ſins, even ſuch ſins, as in the view of a thoughtleſs age are deemed very little, but with the growing light of the day are magnified in our view.

Protracted my veſper in ſweet communion with my Maker.

9. The concerns of fleſh and blood have been the reigning care of the greater part of my life: reſolved, God helping, never to be

proud

proud any more, but to keep in the valley of ſelf-contempt.

15. A tender query: doth thy evening refreſhment interrupt thy communion with thy Maker? Some doubt about it.

16. The women are taking your crowns from off your heads, O ye boobies and earthlings of men!

Grace triumphed over nature to day, and I was favoured with a clear ſight of the bleſſing annexed to trembling at the word of the Lord.

18. Elders ſtupid, do not at all feel the weight of eſſential ſervices incumbent: are they not ſtrangers to the communion of ſaints? and, in other terms, wells without water.

19. Have patience, however: here are two young men of low degree, who may be Levites in time. God can ſtill work wonders, and make the laſt firſt, and the firſt laſt.

20. I feel a little of the weight of my office as overſeer: Lord, increaſe my zeal, and ſanctify my happy leiſure, as an opportunity of contributing in ſmall degree to the promotion of truth upon earth.

25. Reſolved to purſue my ſpirituals this day with a holy violence: ſo purſued them, bleſſed be the Lord!

27. God led to the exerciſe of a holy policy, in ſending to a brother of low degree a ſpiritual regiſtry in lieu of a natural one, with a view to awaken him to a conſideration of objects higher than thoſe of nature.

28. More temperance, more patience, and more heavenly mindedneſs are ſtill wanting.

29. Doth not our ſpiritual ſtate call loudly for the exerciſe of ſupplication to the Lord of the vineyard, to ſend forth more labourers?

31. Some ſenſe of the weight of the office of overſeer is felt. Lord, help!

FOURTH MONTH 1766.

1. An almoſt inſupportable weight of church-buſineſs: breach upon breach, and falſe brethren. God is weaning from this world, by the bitterneſſes that attend in church and ſtate.

2. Diſmiſſed a natural patient to go to a ſpiritual one.

4. Opened my monthly retreat: ſixty-ſeven years are now paſt; they have been years of contemplation and action; years alſo of divine mercy and long forbearance, ending in an old age in a good degree delightful, in digeſting the labours of my youth, but intermingled with ſorrow, on account of a wicked world, and the hypocriſy of profeſſors, and my own barrenneſs.

Held our monthly conference; from whence the following compariſon with a brother, of our ſpiritual ſtates. 1. We both have an acute ſenſe of ſin, but his more acute than mine; for he ſays, that in every thing he does there is a tincture of ſin, wanting a freſh appli-

application of the atoning blood of Chriſt. 2. He is humbled upon the review of his paſt life, and ſo am I; but he more deeply, becauſe his ſins have been groſſer, and he has been more immerſed in ſenſuality; whereas I was hardly ever quite abandoned, and my ſins were of a more refined kind. 3. His induſtry is far ſuperior to mine. He prepares for an hour for his preaching, and ſearches the ſcriptures for his adults, which I alſo do in ſome degree for the children. Again, he riſes at three in the morning for theſe works, whilſt I indulge three hours, or more, longer in bed. 4. He enjoys the glorious hope of the goſpel, ſo do I in ſome degree, whilſt multitudes around us think nothing of it. Laſtly, he enjoys raptures, of which I have only ſome ſlight degrees, and rarely.

Upon the whole, I am engaged in earthly matters more than he, and ſow to the ſpirit with far leſs diligence than he, and move in a lower ſphere, ſome natural affairs ſtill neceſſarily engaging my attention. Lord, make me one of the ſtones in thy heavenly houſe, even if it be only a ſtepping ſtone!

Learn hence, reader, that it is good for a man to converſe with his betters, and that a mutual and open confeſſion of ſins tends to humble and improve us in the paths of piety and virtue.

6. O my levity and barrenneſs in a late converſe! Lord, help!

7. —is on the borders of hell, and no one viſits him, nor is the Chriſtian diſcipline exerciſed: little ſins are cenſured, whilſt great ones are connived at.

A vexatious patient overcame my ſmall fund of patience.

10. An exceſs in the doſe of the drink: ſoul, awake to more vigilance! And, Lord, purge not only from ſurfeiting and drunkenneſs, but from the very ſpirit of them, and likewiſe from the inordinate cares of this life!

14. A judicious Welch paſtor, in the clear viſion, has deſcribed our ſtate in writing, and of one hundred and ſeventy copies of his book, only thirty are bought: Lord, what wonder they ſhould ſlight thy ſervant, who ſlight thee?

15. Viewed the world again on its dark ſide thus: verily, every day in the natural and moral world preſents ſcenes of ſorrow, many of them irremediable, ſome capable of palliation, and but few of an abſolute cure without danger of relapſe into the ſame, or ſome dolorous ſcene: O ſurely, ſurely this world was never deſigned for our reſt! But, bleſſed be the Lord, for opening an eye of faith towards a proſpect of a better country!

15. A freſh view of church duties opens: Lord, ſupport and raiſe up more labourers!

At the diſcipline-meeting poor and weak, with an anxiety for the holy cauſe.

16. A ſweet and profitable review of the labours of my youth in nature; but, O how ſhort

ſhort of the Samuels whom God hath ſet before thine eyes, who have devoted themſelves to grace from their youth!

19. A brave ſtruggle, and ſucceſsful in proceeding to the ſchool reading.

21. Spirituals got the aſcendency over temporals in a viſit paid to ſome deſerters, and God gave me a help-meet, whom God bleſs, and raiſe up more!

27. God was with me in my feaſting, reſtraining the beſtial appetite.

Was enlarged a little in the evening prayer.

Fifth Month 1766.

1. More of the love and fear of God is wanting.

Held our monthly conference: my brother is haraſſed with ſuggeſtions of ſpiritual pride to this day. As to me, God is bringing on to much labour in the ſtation of an elder: I embrace it: ſtrengthen the ſhoulders, good Lord!

This day was exhibited a fair ſpecimen of the true Canaanitiſh language, and of our diſtinguiſhing character and glory, though by a woman; even in a ſolemn query to the auditory "What are ye looking to?"—Look not either to me or to any man, but to him only who ſaid, "Look unto me, even to the Lamb, who taketh away the ſins of the world."

A ſomewhat heavy exerciſe in the attempt of reviving the dormant diſcipline reſpecting drunkenneſs: diſcharged my conſcience, and fell into a ſlight rapture.

At the meeting with the miniſters: thankful for being ſituated among my betters.

4. R. C. and J. R. deceaſed: ſoul, awake to the cleanſing before that dreadful ſentence paſs; "Let him that is filthy be filthy ſtill."

Something of a ſpiritual ſong this evening.

7. The miniſterial exhibitions not unexceptionable: however, I loved the miniſtry amidſt their frailties.

18. The meeting dull and humbling, but at the concluſion faith revived a little.

21. A heavy exerciſe previous to the youth's meeting, but God carried through it in a ſpeech to them, in pointing out the neceſſity of diggers and pruners, as well as planters and waterers: in this exerciſe I found practice is of uſe, and that it is good to open the mouth in humility and fear; for this done, ſome things in the courſe of the exerciſe are preſented, which had not been premeditated at all.

24. I love our artleſs preaching and praying, as effuſions of the heart, remembering the ancient precept of erecting an altar to the Lord, that it was to be done with rough ſtone, and man was not to lift up his tool upon it, leſt he ſhould defile it.

25. Here is great lukewarmneſs: verily, the people are aſleep, and I am but half awake, though

though the night is at hand, in which no man can work.

My advances in the heavenly race are like thoſe of a ſnail.

17. Miſerable deſertions in our camp, even as ſcandalous as hurtful, as that of ſoldiers on the day of battle. Lord, ariſe; who canſt, "even of ſtones, raiſe up children to to Abraham!". Thou alone art my refuge and truſt on this mournful occaſion.

31. I ſee clearly that I am not to be a divine, but in a low degree; convinced of it by my converſe with my betters and ſuperiors.

SIXTH MONTH 1766.

1. Sleepy at meeting, but God ſanctified the event, even in a ſubſequent humiliation and ſelf-abaſement, prayer for pardon, and at length a revival of the ſpiritual appetite for a growth in the Chriſtian graces.

2. How long, O how long ſhall I love ſuch a world as this, and ſuch a ſtate of things as obtains in the church and elſewhere! Verily, I do, on calm reflection, not love, but deſpiſe and trample upon it in a holy contempt, bleſſed be the Lord!

3. Lord, aſſiſt my feeble endeavours in the diſcharge of my duties as an elder, in which daily work opens, and more than I can do; and my yoke-fellows are embaraſſed: this favour, however, is vouchſafed, even to have

ſome

ſome ſhare in theſe tranſactions of grace amidſt conſiderable engagements in thoſe of nature.

O my ſenſuality, O my earthly mindedneſs, and perpetual proneneſs to an inordinate purſuit of the concerns of meer fleſh and blood deſtined to deſtruction! Lord, ſend forth thy light and thy truth!

4. Held our monthly conference, by which it appears, that we grow a little in the exerciſe of our ſpiritual talents, but are not yet perfect.

6. At a ſilent meeting: ſome texts opened, inciting to an enlargement of heart in the precepts of praying for one another, with an humbling ſenſe of paſt omiſſions on this account. Soul, travel on, and doubt not but the Lord is with thee.

A ſweet interview with a ſheep not of our fold, wherein was exhibited ſome joyful news of ſucceſsful endeavours of reviving two uſeful and important, though at preſent dormant practices. 1. The religious inſtruction of youth. 2. The viſiting of families in a religious way.

15. A temptation to expatiate in natural ſtudies, but grace reſtrained, with this illumination: we ſhall never know here but in part, and the regions of ſuperior light and glory are near.

A very agreeable, though really miraculous account (our low eſtate conſidered) from England of a conſiderable acceſſion of ſtrangers

to

to us, who are coming to ſit down with us, and partake of our goſpel-privileges.

17. A little brittle on a diſagreeable call.

19. At the medical ſociety almoſt alone: a ſad world in nature and in grace: O where is publick ſpirit!

23. A ſecret whiſper, that I ſhould do leſs in nature.

Chriſt roſe to pray a great while before day; here is authority for the holy vigil: O my ſoul, bluſh; "He that ſoweth ſparingly ſhall reap ſparingly."

24. Diſcipline-meeting deſerted by ſeveral, who, like the man with one talent, ſlighting the meanneſs of his gift, hid it in the earth; yet in theſe dreary times, God raiſed up a help-meet.

27. Some remains of hope ſupporting my ſoul as an anchor in the proſpect of more activity and induſtry in the work of overſeer, and of holding forth as ſuch an example to the riſing generation: Lord, animate and help!

A ſweet and near acceſs to the Lord in prayer, and an humble hope, that we are not yet arrived to that pitch of depravity which old Iſrael was, when, there being "no king in Iſrael, every man did that which was right in his own eyes:" but even then did God raiſe up deliverers: ſo raiſe up, good Lord, in this holy ſtruggle with delinquents!

29. At a ſilent meeting—was wounded for ſin, but comforted with a ſenſe that the ſame power that wounds can heal.

SEVENTH

SEVENTH MONTH 1766.

Sixty-ſeven years are now paſt: what lack I yet?

ANSW. More temperance, and more heavenly mindedneſs, and an aſpiration for putting in practice the heavenly precept, [h] *Omnem crede diem tibi diluxiſſe ſupremum.* Hor. But, O my impotence to this: Lord, help!

Took up the croſs upon my ſhoulders in two inſtances, though not without ſome murmuring.

An eminent author affirms that church to be in a ruinous condition, where both worſhip and diſcipline are neglected: now this is egregiouſly our preſent caſe: wherefore, let every man teach his neighbour lamentation.

Made ſeveral viſits in the capacity of ark-bearer, in other terms, in diſtributing ſpiritual books.

3. Weakneſs and frowardneſs attend.

Held our monthly conference to edification, in comparing our various temptations and experiences in the courſe of our pilgrimage.

5. At a ſilent meeting my ſong was entirely of the mournful kind, thus: O my barrenneſs in ſpirituals in time paſt!

6. Viſited a neighbouring meeting, and read the national epiſtle to them with a dumb eloquence, being overcome in a tranſport of

[h] Think every dawning day will be thy laſt.

joy

joy at ſome of the contents, conveying ſweet goſpel-tidings: I was here convinced of the ſmallneſs of my talent compared to thoſe of others; however, reſolved to exerciſe it, ſmall as it is, not doubting but an improvement will attend faithfulneſs; ſo help, Lord!

10. At diſcipline-meeting God gave a little courage, when ſeveral deſerted me.

O Review the labours of ſome modern ſaints, even thy contemporary brethren and ſiſters; extend alſo thy retroſpection to the ſtripes, ſtoning, perils of various kinds, and particularly thoſe of falſe brethren, the wearineſs, watching, faſting, cold, and nakedneſs, impending death, and the care of the churches by the apoſtle Paul, and ſhrink into deep ſelf-contempt upon the compariſon.

I have no talent at oratory, and the comfort is, truth does not want it.

15. At a ſilent meeting—ſome degree of a comfortable aſſurance of a real progreſs, and a prayer for an eſtabliſhment.

25. Mammon muſt needs be preferred to God, and the duties of the firſt table greatly neglected, by the inhabitants of this city, whilſt immerſed, as they are, in the meer concerns of fleſh and blood.

26. A lively, clear, and infallible ſenſe, that "in me dwelleth not any good thing," but only tranſient viſits; and that it is truly a foreign power that gives activity to run the holy race: ſo Lord, ſend forth thy light and thy truth!

An embittering diſpenſation of ſore eyes and dull ears, the firſt taking me off from my darling delights of reading and writing, the ſecond from thoſe of converſation: Lord, I kiſs thy rod: and may it be a means (together with the ſight thou haſt given me of the degeneracy of my aſſociates from primitive piety) of weaning me from this low, poor world, and of eſtabliſhing me in moderation!

31. Exerciſed a review of the life of an author which I had read, and of my own, in which the compariſon ſtood thus.

His life.	My life.
1. Was of the active kind.	1. Rather contemplative in the exerciſe of a ſcribe.
2. He ſacrificed his eaſe and health to the good of the ſouls and bodies of others.	2. I huſband my conſtitution. I am exerciſed a little in ſpirituals as an elder, but the chief objects of my charity are the bodies of the poor.
3. His induſtry is very great; he catechiſes children ſeveral times in a week, beſides ſpiritual conferences and publick preaching. He	3. I catechiſe but once a week, my conferences are rare, publick preaching none, meditation and prayer every morning and

ſpends

ſpends ſome hours in the day in prayer.

4. He is content with, nay, chooſes the meaneſt fare.

5. He embraces the croſs.

evening; and if a work of charity intervenes, I quit prayer, and go to exerciſe that work.

4. The fat of the land is mine; and I ſometimes exerciſe a partial faſt for health.

5. I ſhun pain and diſeaſe, but yet I deſire to be an aſſociate of thoſe that ſuffer with Chriſt.

However, in the courſe of my religious ſearches, I find one, perhaps ſeveral, inſtances of perſons who have voluntarily employed themſelves in attending the ſick during the plague, and of many others voluntarily devoting themſelves to the ſpreading of truth among ſtrangers, and moreover of their renunciation of ſuperfluities not only in drinks, meats, and apparel, but likewiſe in the vain honours and ſuperfluous profits of this world: but, O the deviation of the moderns in theſe reſpects! They are not worthy to be named with my above ſaint, and the others here ſignified: our men are too generally buried in the earth, and our women are taking our crowns from our heads. However, God is glorified, by effecting great things by weak inſtruments.

Reſolved never to be proud any more, ſeeing God has placed me among ſo many burn-

ing and ſhining lights, my betters and ſuperiors in grace. So I be a ſtone in the heavenly building, even to be trodden upon, I ſhall rejoice.

EIGHTH MONTH 1766.

Opened my monthly retreat.

My ſixty-eighth year is now paſſing over.

O my ſtupid heart, which is ſo little, ſo languidly touched at this moſt awful period, the midnight cry at the door! Lord, awaken!

Why doſt thou dote on any thing here, though of the moſt goodly and ſpecious appearance, even moral righteouſneſs, as far as reſpects the meer concerns of fleſh and blood, devoted to deſtruction, the meat of worms, and the ſole object of phyſick?

Surely I am now called to the purſuit of higher objects, the promotion of the kingdom of Chriſt upon earth, in a joint labour with faithful elders and miniſters, and to a preparation for a happy tranſlation.

Look with an eye of faith on that ſaying of Chriſt in his prayer: "Father, I will that thoſe thou haſt given me be with me where I am, that they may behold my glory which thou haſt given me: for thou lovedſt me before the foundation of the world."

In the days of ignorance and unbelief preceding my converſion, I ſaw the world (not as it really was, but) as it was not, having viewed

viewed it through a falſe magnifier; but I now begin to behold it as it really is, even no object of love, being truly a place of baniſhment or excluſion from paradiſe, a ſtate of imperfections, trials, temptations, dangers, and ſins, as well as of diſeaſes and death, even death natural, and death eternal, unleſs the Saviour interpoſe.

Doubt concerning my evening's refreſhment, leſt it ſhould cloud the evening devotion.

Held our monthly conference: we harmonize in a ſolid contempt of this lower world: we ſtill feel our wants, and a heavenly attraction to higher degrees of purity and love: my brother has more of the heighths and depths than I: in other terms, he has more conſolations, and more deſertions than I.

3. Now is the time of thy trial come, even the trial of thy valour, or want of valour for truth upon earth, no longer in meer writing and ſpeculation, but in practice; even in perſonal labours, in warning the unruly, ſupporting the weak, and inſtructing the ignorant, comforting the feeble minded, and exerciſing patience towards all men. In nature, thou haſt been more abundant in labours than moſt of thy fellows; in grace leſs than thouſands of others: thou art now ſtrongly called upon to relax in that, but redeem thy time in the other.

4. Spent my mattin in ſpiritual fox-hunting.

5. Snappiſh on unſeaſonable calls, and in a time of weakneſs and indiſpoſition: but this is not a ſufficient apology: Lord, be my ſtrength in my weakneſs!

Went to the almoſt deſerted diſcipline-meeting, and ſaw the high neceſſity of ſtanding in the gap, notwithſtanding my own weakneſs and imperfection. A laborious time.

7. Recovered from ſore eyes, a gentle chaſtiſement, bleſſed be the Lord! May it teach me moderation, and that holy careleſſneſs which the apoſtle recommends, 1 Cor. vii. 32.

8. Spent my mattin in collecting and recording ſome ſhort inſtructive ſpiritual ſayings: theſe I call flowers, and deem them the ſpecial gift of heaven.

A prayer on my preſent ſtate: Lord, I adore thy late chaſtiſing hand, by which thou haſt gently ſmitten thoſe organs which have been too earneſtly devoted to nature, in an idolatrous preference thereof to grace! O, let this rod be a means of weaning from that inordinate love, and of eſtabliſhing in moderation in all the concerns of fleſh and blood, and of quickening me to a ſtronger faith in Chriſt, and higher degrees of purity and love!

Look down upon the deſolations of our Sion, and bring me forward in more activity as overſeer and catechiſt, and favour me with ability of body and mind to diſcharge theſe offices, and to let men ſee the neceſſity of diggers and pruners in thy vineyard.

I bleſs

I bleſs thee for the moſt happy leiſure which thou haſt afforded me, and for thy conſecration thereof; and for the dew of heaven with which thou haſt abundantly favoured me, particularly in the hiſtories of the lives of ſome Chriſtians, bleſſed incentives to a holy progreſſion and preparation for the heavenly company above.

Preſerve from conceitedneſs and raſhneſs in my natural ſtudies!

Give me to view death and judgment, and to live every day as the laſt, ſince the awful hour approacheth with rapid ſtrides; and to drink and eat in thy holy fear and preſence!

Diveſt me of the murmuring ſpirit on every diſpenſation of thy Providence, the old ſin of my life: and teach me that excellent leſſon of being content in all ſtates, and grant an entire union of my will to thine!

Give me to ſee this life no longer as it is not, but as it really is, even a ſtate of baniſhment from paradiſe, a ſtage of ignorance, temptations, dangers, ſins and ſorrows, and to aſpire after a meetneſs for a tranſlation to another and better ſtate!

10. Lord, what will become of thy vineyard, ſince thy worſhip is neglected, and the hedge in many places is broken down, the dreſſers neglect to repair the breaches; ſtupidity having ſeized them, and the love of this preſent world; and every proſpect ſeems dull and dolorous? Lord, preſerve me from the contagion of the times, leſt I alſo periſh!

13. Proviſions dear, expences high. In a ſpiritual view, with reſpect to ſome of us, it might be better if there were a greater ſcarcity: for it might mortify our ſenſuality, and leave the mind freer for all the ſweet and profitable exerciſes of devotion, which are too often clouded by the fumes of indigeſtion from fleſhly indulgence.

In my natural ſtudies ſome uſeful myſteries pleaſantly diſcloſe themſelves.

The Hiſtory of an eminent Soldier was very inſtructive: O the toils, pains, and dangers he undergoes for meer temporal honour; and how little of theſe do I undergo for that honour which cometh from God only, for promoting truth upon earth, for the proſperity of Sion, and the repair of her deſolations! Verily very little, although a great deal for the preſervation of this corruptible body. Lord, raiſe!

17. A viſit to a lapſed brother. A ſweet call to keep the temple clean, previous to my evening ſacrifice.

At meeting—an offence by ſleeping there, rebuked with a ſeaſonable ſide-blow from a woman: are not the men aſleep?

19. Anger diſproportionate to the occaſion was the ſin of yeſterday, which I forgot to lay before my Lord, and to deprecate the repetition of it, as I now do.

22. Some gluttony yeſterday, not confeſſed then, nor even now heartily enough deplored:

deplored: Lord, give an acute ſenſe of this ſin.

Saw my proper and principal work to be in the cloſet, not in the field: and God is ſweetening my old age in reviewing and digeſting my labours in nature, uſeful I hope: and indeed I became a wonder to myſelf on this account. Lord, preſerve from conceitedneſs!

25. O poor Dublin! God is ſhaking thy pillars, and in a conſpicuous manner drawing off from all human dependencies: here are great deſertions: it is plain here are but few that ſtand: but though Iſrael be not gathered, yet Chriſt the Lord will be glorified, Iſa. xlix. even he who opened the ſealed book mentioned Rev. v. who ſeeth all events from the beginning of the world to the conſummation of all things to his own glory. He indeed is my refuge on this mournful occaſion, and he alone; and his ways are ſtill ways of wonder, and particularly in extending his gracious calls to a revolting people in a miniſterial way.

Sol. God unfoldeth the myſteries of nature and of grace to the diligent enquirer: Lord, eſtabliſh me in holy moderation in my natural ſtudies!

26. Emerged from ſix weeks confinement by ſore eyes, bleſſed be the Lord!

Sol. See: thou art now writing a hiſtory of diſeaſes; but let this be viewed in a goſpel light, and it is no other than a hiſtory of the miſeries entailed upon Adam's children at his expulſion

expulsion from paradise to an earth "cursed for his sake," in God's own language, in the third of Genesis, which miseries there is no way of so effectually alleviating, as that of the glorious opening of the gospel hope.

29. Prayed to God that he would make me as a firebrand among some brethren, to kindle up, not consume, their souls to some important Christian duties impending.

I am attacked by three different objects of my natural studies, even in danger of lessening the holy ardour to the spiritual: Lord, help, lest I fall and perish!

31. Blessed be God, he is bringing me on in the natural pursuits sweetly, and, in the course of his good Providence, sanctifying my late confinement, and necessarily abstaining from vehemence in these pursuits; which prevented precipitancy, and gave a fine opportunity for divers natural truths to disclose themselves.

A heavy exercise of patience in a struggle with the brethren, to incite them to engage in the visit, but with no encouragement.

There was a sweet gospel-call in the morning, but a piteous slight put upon it in the afternoon: thus is Christ despised in his ministers, as I believe he himself would be, were he to appear personally on earth.

NINTH MONTH 1766.

1. Opens my monthly retreat: what is yet wanting?

ANSW. 1. More faſting, leſs feaſting. 2. More moderation in natural ſtudies, in order that I may go down to my grave, looſened from the world. 3. More meekneſs on croſs calls. 4. More ſenſibility of the approach of death and judgment.

2. The review and digeſting of former labours are now the chief employment, and proper to my age.

Diſcharged my conſcience weakly, but faithfully, at the diſcipline-meeting.

3. Held our monthly conference. My brother has far more conſolations than I; and no wonder, for he works harder, and is ſupported accordingly; whereas I move in a lower ſphere, inevitably immerſed in the cares of fleſh and blood, the diſeaſes of the body, and the ſubjects of natural hiſtory, ſubjects as far inferior to the ſpiritual, as earth is to heaven.

One altercation occurred between us: he calls my complaints of weakneſs, imperfection, and ſin, the dictates of the grand accuſer; whereas I rather chuſe to call them the ſtrivings of God's ſpirit reproving for ſin, and gradually cleanſing from it; and ſo I ſay, good Lord, ſpare neither hammer, ſword, nor even fire, if neceſſary, until all thy enemies in me be ſubdued!

4. Omitted

4. Omitted to confeſs yeſterday's ſin of anger not duly limited.

The ſtate of divers elders: they are pretty ready at condemning flagrant ſinners, or pretty good executioners; but as to comforting the feeble minded, ſupporting the weak, and inſtructing the ignorant, they have very little ſkill or practice. Soul, how is it with thee?

Answ. I alſo am deficient, but hope God will, in ſome degree ſupply my defects, and fructify the barren ſoil.

Let us go into the vineyard and work: I hope God will yet give us a little ſummer.

6. Paid a viſit in the conſolatory way.

A ſinful perverſeneſs and impatience under body affliction.

9. Saw in the clear viſion, that we elders have been aſleep: but, as thou Lord haſt graciouſly rouſed me, give me alſo grace to rouſe others.

10. Seven patients, who exerciſed my patience beyond the holy limits.

11. From nature let us aſcend to grace: I have traced the epidemick diſeaſes in Dublin, hitherto the chief objects of my care: let us now take a view of the ſpiritual maladies: theſe are, an evil heart of unbelief in reſpect to God, and particularly his Son Chriſt Jeſus; ſtupidity, and an inordinate attachment to the meer concerns of fleſh and blood, in other terms, a worldly ſpirit, which hath been juſtly charged upon us by our late faithful preſbytery in their viſit, which charge hath not yet

been wiped off: and verily, even I, who ſeem to herd among the faithful remnant, have evident occaſion to cry out, O my leanneſs and barrenneſs!

12. Diſcharged my conſcience to a brother elder in relation to our office.

13. Agreeable goſpel news from Briſtol and Norwich.

14. A hard ſtruggle to promote the religious viſit, almoſt with deſpair: attended the women's meeting on this ſubject: they are very idle.

15. A memorable æra with regard to miniſterial labours, wherein the old men were hewed, and the young wooed. I admired the gracious dealings of a long-ſuffering God in thus ſtriving with revolters, goodneſs unutterable, incomprehenſible, and not commenſurate either to our conceptions or deſerts.

16. Heavy exerciſe for introducing the viſit; the old cold procraſtination appears, and deliberation inſtead of action: the hands in the boſom in harveſt time.

A providential aſſiſtance in this work from two foreigners.

18. Proceeded in the ſaid ſervice, in company with my betters.

20. A week of religious conference and viſits, wherein God was gracious to me, and to the revolters.

23. A ſweet ſilent meeting in an heavenly attraction to further purity and love. "Fleſh and

and blood cannot inherit the kingdom," was the watch word.

24. Rummaged old ſpiritual manuſcripts to be diſtributed on the viſit.

Not abandoned in my feaſting, bleſſed be the Lord!

28. Amidſt all our revoltings God was my refuge this day, who knoweth all our wanderings, and alone ſeeth from the beginning to the conſummation of all things to his own glory: in him will I repoſe under all adverſe events: ſo help, Lord!

29. Omitted to confeſs the ſin of yeſterday, even impatience on croſs calls.

30. Heavy exerciſe on the viſit impending: a prodigious averſion to being enliſted in this important ſervice: ſlothfulneſs was charged upon the recuſants.

TENTH MONTH 1766.

1. O for more patience!

Held our monthly conference; from which it appears, that the Lord is gracious to us, and that this is not our reſt, but a ſtate of baniſhment and of warfare.

We are not indeed without ſpots, but we go to the fountain and waſh.

Driven almoſt to deſpair in ſoliciting the religious viſit: reſolved to make one effort more: Lord, help!

2. In-

2. "Invited ſome to our diſcipline-meeting without effect: Lord, open their eyes, whom the God of this world hath blinded, and raiſe up more labourers!

A miracle of grace: A. D. 1740, in England an acceſſion of ſtrangers to us in our ſelf-denying way; which was alſo the caſe in 1766, bleſſed be the Lord!

6. More vigilance is requiſite for thee in thy new office of overſeer: remember, that formality in a quaker-overſeer is as criminal as in a man-created biſhop.

7. At a ſilent meeting the holy hunger ſubſiſted. Saw in the clear viſion, that the greater part in theſe degenerate days do not prize, but deſpiſe their privileges in two important points. 1. The worſhip of God in ſilence. 2. The wholeſome diſcipline, and the ſpirit of it.

I ſaw alſo, not leſs clearly, two armies drawn up in battle array againſt each other. 1. The carnal profeſſors. 2. The ſpiritual; and theſe laſt vaſtly inferior in number: good Lord, haſt not thou enliſted me in this war? So help to fight! Surely the combat is begun; and a new ſcene opens, with reſpect to the ſpiritual epidemical diſeaſes and patients, and the Lord prompts to more activity. Proceeded accordingly to viſit one of theſe (where the labour was not wholly fruitleſs) and planned for another, bleſſed be the Lord!

9. Lord, lift up my heart to the view of thy dealings in grace, yet more! It is true,

many things delightful and uſeful have opened themſelves in reward of my laborious ſearches in nature: but, indeed, the wonders of grace are of greater importance, and withal, more obvious to the view of every enlightened mind, and of more intereſting and univerſal concern, and are lively incentives to adoration and love; even the love of God in Chriſt Jeſus, and particularly in his miraculous interpoſition in preſerving his church, more or leſs, in all ages; and even now viſibly awakening thouſands to a right goſpel ſenſe of things, and, in our little ſociety, is raiſing up children to Abraham, even as from the ſtones of the ſtreet. Praiſe the Lord, O my ſoul! Every faithful miniſter exceeds the meer phyſician of the body, as heaven does earth.

12. O my barrenneſs! The remembrance of paſt neglects and omiſſions is bitter.

13. Lord, how can I do leſs in nature? I neglect novelties, and am chiefly employed in digeſting old matters.

Answ. The affection to nature muſt be yet more mortified, and the earth muſt be turned upſide down, viz. The earth and its concerns beneath, whilſt heaven and the graces of the Holy Spirit muſt be uppermoſt.

17. The ſixth ſucceſſively ſilent meeting in Dublin, and not unprofitable.

18. Behold two temptations laid in thy way. 1. Not downright drunkenneſs nor gluttony, but the ſpirit of theſe. 2. The cares

cares of meer fleſh and blood. Trim thy lamp; for the bridegroom is at the door.

19. Grace triumphs over nature. Thought of the apoſtle Paul's exerciſes and troubles, and numerous perils: O what a pigmy am I, upon the compariſon!

22. Heartily ſick of the world.

25. Viſited a meeting, accompanied by a brother of low degree: ſpoke as an elder, broaching ſome grateful goſpel-news, and had a mournful ſenſe of ſpiritual idleneſs, unbelief, natural diſtreſs, uncertainties and dangers attending the people, indevotion, ſcarce any ſpiritual conference at all; whereas aſſuredly the wiſe man talketh of wiſdom, even out of the abundance of his heart; whereas out of an empty form comes nothing: Lord, look down!

28. A ſweet prayer from one of the other ſex, highly pertinent to our preſent ſtate, to the following effect: "Lord, command ſilence, that Thou, the inviſible Teacher, mayſt be heard, honoured, and obeyed; and awaken the carnal profeſſors!"

31. Held our monthly conference: my brother far tranſcends me in ſpiritual induſtry, who am immerſed in nature, and poor in grace: he has alſo far more conſolation than I, and thinks he has an antepaſt of heaven, and longs for it: I grovel in nature, and am a Chriſtian of the loweſt claſs.

Trouble on account of two Laodicean brethren, with a ſenſe that we in this city,

in a ſpiritual view, may be compared to ſtagnating waters, ſituated almoſt always in the ſame places, and among the ſame perſons, which tends to dullneſs; whereas, as in nature, ſo in grace, variety is pleaſant, and running waters are ſweet; and clouds ſhould move from one ſpot to another, in order to water different places; but, alas! where are theſe? Let the harp hang on the willow.

ELEVENTH MONTH 1766.

1. Opens my montly retreat.

Sixty-ſeven and $\frac{11}{12}$ years are paſt: what then?

ANSW. Put in practice that arduous precept: *Omnem crede diem tibi diluxiſſe ſupremum*: 'Believe every day to be thy laſt.'

At a meeting of miniſters and elders; it was good for me to be among my betters: live coals kindle each other; ſuch were we to day; and the tongue of the ſtammerer was looſened.

4. Truth was honeſtly dealt forth in a faithful miniſtry, bleſſed be the Lord: what ſhould be the conſequence? Truly bitter mourning: Lord, give us elders to join in the doleful ſymphony.

5. Ate as a ſwine to day, even the great day of the general aſſembly of miniſters and elders; and, although I was not clouded by this dinner, yet I was not ſo light and alert as

I ought

I ought to have been on this weighty and and ſolemn occaſion: Lord, I have ſinned. Our oeconomy is bad, in thus being expoſed to the temptation of heavy dinners previous to this weighty ſervice. Lord, I come to the fountain of thy blood to waſh, and reſolve, with thy help, never more to repeat this ſin on this occaſion.

8. Now comes on the laborious work of promoting truth upon earth, not in ſpeculation and writing, where the view of it was pleaſant, but in practice, and treating with individuals in religious viſits: Lord, raiſe up more labourers!

Laboured the point of getting aſſociates in the viſit, under great diſcouragements.

This day truth triumphed in the gallery, being clearly and powerfully declared, and the miniſters were attended by a large auditory: but, what then?

Is not indeed the ſervant preferred to the maſter? Do not many come to hear the firſt, who will not come to hear the laſt? And are not many, as it were, buried alive in the cares of this life? Do not our epiſtles pronounce the ſame thing in effect? And ſhall admonitions on this occaſion be the peculiar gift of miniſters in the publick declamatory way only? Shall not elders according to ancient precept and practice, labour to confirm, enforce, and apply the ſame thing in their viſits to families and individuals? Verily, they are idle ſhepherds, and blind watchmen, if they

do not, and our ſpiritual ruin is not far off, if this labour ceaſes, as it threatens to do in this and another city.

The youth in particular is called, and ſhall not the elders join with and ſecond this call, in order that a ſucceſſion may be maintained?

11. Herein ſhineth our miniſtry with peculiar luſtre, even in preaching and recommending Chriſt within, and not themſelves, and in ſteadily publiſhing and maintaining the way of the croſs as the only road to the crown.

17. 19. and 26. Proceeded on the viſit, in a communion truly ſpiritual with three ſiſters, to both rich and poor, and more ſweetly with the laſt: took up the croſs and carried it on my ſhoulders, leaving temporals behind me, and proceeded with induſtry and vigilance, ſnatching every opportunity. It was good for me to be with my betters, their faith, love, ſuperior fervour and enlargement of heart far tranſcending mine. Sweet, heavenly, and highly uſeful and pertinent counſels were imparted.

Notwithſtanding all remonſtrances, a miſerable defection in publick worſhip.

27. An unexpected phenomenon providential; a new brother voluntarily joins in this ſervice: Lord, proſper him!

30. Thus is truth, even eſſential, ſoul-ſaving truth, preached, not only at meeting, but by the fire-ſide, and the goſpel handed forth to the poor, bleſſed be the Lord, and by mean inſtruments, the weaker veſſels, in whom

whom God manifeſts ſtrength, and his marvellous love and long forbearance, and I was comforted in the proſpect of an accompliſhment of this work, which I had nearly deſpaired of.

TWELFTH MONTH 1766.

1. Opens my monthly retreat.

Sixty-ſeven and $\frac{11}{12}$ years are now paſt. More of the tender filial fear is yet wanting.

Held our monthly conference, whereupon the compariſon ſtood thus: my brother is more heavenly minded, and more rapturous than I; I trudge on in bearing the croſs. We have both the honour of ſtanding in the gap, he in the gap of preaching, I in the gap of preſbytery.

2. Proceeded in the viſit, wherein truth in its genuine nakedneſs and ſimplicity ſhone, and the eſſential duties of piety and brotherly love were diſplayed in ſweet and fervent exhortations and admonitions. An humbling ſenſe of my low ſpiritual ſtate compared to that of my aſſociates: I have indeed given up my temporals at home for the ſake of the good cauſe, but they (feeble women!) have croſſed the ſeas, and traverſed many difficulties on the ſame account.

9. The diſcipline-meeting laborious: the care of the church grows.

12. The

12. The viſit proceeds, but our weakneſs was ſuch, that it could not be performed without the help of ſtrangers: God gave courage to ſtand in the gap, and join theſe in an harmonious co-operation for the promotion of truth upon earth, truth in converſation, truth in the cloſet, truth in ſhops and in the market.

14. A laborious work in the ſaid ſervice, wherein eſſential truths were declared, truths of greater importance than any in nature. This is the true philoſophy indeed, and my aſſociates are philoſophers of the higheſt order.

16. Did we elders apply the truths preached in publick to individuals, what bleſſed help-meets ſhould we be to the miniſtry! But, O how little of ſuch a work appears!

21. The word preached hath not been mixed with faith; for, notwithſtanding all the egregious labours of that ſort, here is a ſcandalous deſertion of meetings for worſhip.

24. Matter of comfort, and at the ſame time matter of humiliation: the firſt, in a grateful ſenſe of God having given me ſome of the apoſtolick appendages to faith, viz. firſt knowledge, even that knowledge which is preferable to all others, the knowledge and contempt of myſelf; and, ſecondly, the grace of brotherly kindneſs in the preſent religious viſit: to the Lord be the glory!

But, ſecondly, the matter of humiliation, was the view of a long courſe of ſpiritual idolatry, in preferring nature to grace, a ſin never, never to be forgotten by me, though pardoned,

pardoned, as I hope, by the atoning blood, yet juſtly affording to me an ample fund of humiliation.

31. Diſcharged my conſcience at the youth's meeting with a ſweet ſymphonick ſound in the miniſtry.

First Month 1767.

3. Sickneſs after the feaſt, which more temperance might have prevented.

6. In the religious viſit, my brother quite outſhone me, though I broke the ice.

A ſilent meeting, but truly luminous, with an attraction towards the inviſible world, an humbling ſenſe of my low ſpiritual ſituation, in compariſon of that of our itinerants, traverſing ſea and land for the ſake of the holy cauſe: yet ſome conſolation in the ſenſe of a diſcharge of duty in ſelf-denial, in preferring ſpirituals to temporals, and in an increaſed love of the brethren.

17. Chriſtian diſcipline now is exerciſed; even that which was before only an object of ſpeculation, is now become the more laborious ſubject of practice.

18. Finiſhed the viſit to families, out of ſeaſon, and in the middle of winter, not without hazard of the lives of ſome.

Reſolved, that if the Lord ſhould preſerve to another, not to engage in it but in longer days,

days, leſt we ſhould be found tempting the Lord, and ſhortening our days.

23. The teſtimony of a good conſcience, that ſome real progreſs hath been made in the exerciſe of the duties of an elder, but withal, a certain ſenſe that there is much room for more.

25. Weaning from the world, was the reigning cry of the day.

God gave courage to hold up our Chriſtian teſtimony againſt plays: my brother declared the truth boldly. Lord, bleſs the labour!

27. O poor Dublin! thy outward pillars fail in a great meaſure. May the people look unto him, who alone is able to help, and raiſe up other pillars!

30. Bad uſage in a flagrant and unrighteous detention of fees.

God gave ſome degree of patience, and moreover did this day reſtrain the beſtial appetite.

SECOND MONTH 1767.

1. Both meetings poor, yet attended with a holy drawing to a limitation of my natural ſtudies: alſo, God gave courage and ſteadineſs in the proſecution of the family viſit.

3. A laborious day in the patientry, and was obliged to reject one call on account of the higher call, being led to prefer Jeruſalem to my chief joy, in which cauſe I had the honour

honour of ſuffering, being wounded at the running away of ſome brethren before the church's buſineſs was finiſhed.

I ſaw that I muſt truſt in the Lord, who knoweth our ſtate altogether, and whoſe ways are ways of wonder, and far above our comprehenſion.

5. Held our monthly conference, the uſefulneſs of which abundantly appeared, even in the mutual confeſſion of our infirmities, yea ſins, particularly that of brittleneſs on little croſs events: and on this conſideration we are both driven to the Lamb of God, our Saviour.

My brother jogs me on, not only to hope, but to the higher degree of aſſurance.

6. In the other Evangeliſts our Lord appears in his ſtate of humiliation, but in the Revelation he appears in his exaltation and triumph.

Methinks, were there no other evidence of the divine authority of the Old Teſtament, the very name of God there, I AM, ſhines infinitely beyond that of any heathen deities.

8. An humbling time at a ſilent meeting, in the clear viſion, thus: 1. From my brittleneſs on certain little croſs events, it is clear I am not enough imbued with the love of my neighbour, viz. That I do not love him ſo well as myſelf. Lamb of God, take away my ſin! 2. O my weakneſs and barrenneſs! Above twelve hours, viz. Above half my time is ſpent in ſleep, and in eating and drinking!

Finiſhed

Finiſhed Gill's Comment on the Old Teſtament. Bleſſed be God for this precious loan, a gracious Providence to me truly!

15. Was ſtrongly confirmed in the expediency of my reading with and catechizing the children, as far better auditors than moſt adults; and at the ſame time inſtructive to myſelf, who, though an old man, am but a child in the myſteries of grace.

17. At meeting was lively impreſſed with the following as a watch word—"We have no continuing city here, but ſeek one to come;" and the holy fire kindled on two miniſters there: but the ſucceeding meeting of diſcipline was poor and barren. I had no liberty there. Things ſeem to be going retrograde, and the brethren to be fallen aſleep! Lord, rouſe them!

19. A day of diſtreſs in a righteous view of the deplorable ſtate of the world, and particularly of the medical world, and of the church. Bleſſed be the Lord, I have ſome hope of a better country.

21. Saw the expediency of diſpatching temporal buſineſs as much as poſſible on the evening preceding the typical ſabbath, in order to enjoy as much abſtraction from the world on the enſuing day as poſſible.

22. The meetings moſtly ſilent, ſave for a ſiſter, a watch-woman, neither blind nor dumb, to whom God gave courage to reprove the ſleepers, and me to ſpeak to an individual after concluſion.

23. In

23. In the courſe of the viſit, much work by reaſon of great indevotion, carnality, ſtupidity, and eſtrangedneſs, from the commonwealth of the ſpiritual Iſrael.

24. At a ſilent meeting, the weight of the engagement of an elder was felt, with prayer for ſtrength to accompliſh it.

Attempted to get aſſociates in the overſeerſhip in vain.

25. Come, let us pray the Lord of the vineyard to look down upon its deſolations, leſt it periſh.

26. Proceeded on the viſit with very little apparent effect.

27. Weaning from the world is the work now impending; and as in nature the weaning time is painful, ſo in grace.

Bleſſed be the Lord for my littleneſs: grandeur, avaunt! Thou art the deſtruction of ſoul and body.

THIRD MONTH 1767.

1. Sixty-eight and $\frac{2}{12}$ years are now paſt.

More circumſpection in eating and drinking, leſt the temple be defiled.

In the evening a religious viſit in concert.

3. A happy Providence diſpoſed me to an acquieſcence in the divine ſuperintendency, with regard to my affliction, on account of the ſtate of the church, even to truſt in him,

of whom it is ſaid, Pſalm xcvii. 2. "Clouds and darkneſs are round about him."

6. A ſweet attraction yeſterday from the earth, and all its concerns, which was renewed in my ſilent attendance at wiſdom's gate, at our meeting to day, with an appoſite illumination in theſe words: "We have no continuing city here;" no ſabbath, but a ſucceſſion of endleſs viciſſitudes. Reſolved to love the world no more. So help, Lord! The meeting concluded with a ſweet prayer.

7. An attempt of a ſpiritual viſit to an old ſcoffer, with a ſlight, but not total repulſe.

8. A ſecret whiſper to this purpoſe: enough of corporeal medicines: ſurely it is high time to think of the ſpiritual.

An admonition in concert to a tardy brother.

This day at the morning meeting, a clear viſion of the high importance of the elderſhip and ſpiritual particular viſits, thus: 1. It reaches individuals, whereas preaching is partly loſt in generals. 2. It enters into divers minute particular matters, which a publick miniſtry cannot reach. If rightly exerciſed, it is an excellent help to the miniſtry, even in applying the doctrines delivered to individuals.

9. A humble hope that nature this day gave way to grace.

10. Irreproachable to men, but accountable to God, in late coming to meeting.

12. The quarterly review of bodily diſeaſes being now finiſhed, it is highly ſeaſonable

able to lift up the eye a little higher, even to the epidemical diſeaſes of the ſouls of men, viz. Forgetfulneſs of God in time of proſperity, hardneſs of heart, curioſity in other men's matters, with neglect of the concerns of our own ſouls, great lukewarmneſs, and a rapid career into practical atheiſm, after a long courſe of unbelief in Chriſt as our Lord and lawgiver, our pattern, our mediator, interceſſor, and our propitiatory ſacrifice, as well as our light and comforter.

13. Ran off and got early to meeting, which was ſilent, but ſweet, though with a ſenſe of my own inſufficiency, and the neceſſity of a ſuperior power to draw off from the natural attachment to this world.

17. O the importance of a faithful preſbytery! But, Lord, they are aſleep. O Lord, who didſt raiſe the dead for thy own glory's ſake, awaken ſome of theſe, and inſpire for thy ſervice!

A weight of church-buſineſs laid on my ſhoulders, and God favoured: and ſome fruits of our labours in exciting the idle to diligence appeared.

21. O the vaſt extent of that precept; "Thou ſhalt love thy neighbour as thyſelf! Verily, I yet fall ſhort of it: God of all grace and love, ſupply my defects!

22. A ſilent meeting, but the fire was on the altar.

A little too late at meeting; multitudes ſhamefully ſo. Soul, awake!

Weary of the world, and of the church in its preſent ſtate.

23. Review of my Hiſtory of Weather and Diſeaſes, in which I thought were ſome truths of importance.

24. This Lent took a hint from the Papiſts, and devoted an hour to faſting, recollection, and prayer, on account of the preſent mournful ſtate of our Sion.

O the weight of the work of an elder, its vaſt extent and importance! See: nothing now in a manner ſtands between us and utter deſolation, but the hedge of diſcipline: Lord, animate the form!

A troubleſome correſpondence on a juſt apprehenſion of a great detention of property: ſuch are the appendages of earthly treaſures! But the heavenly are liable to no ſuch depredations.

25. Spoke as an elder at a meeting of conference, but was well informed of the voice being quite too low in a wide houſe; and ſo the end in a great meaſure fruſtrated.

26. Here is certainly a harveſt, a large body of youth attending, but the elders deſert the work: Lord, raiſe up more labourers! I will not yet deſpair: for amidſt all diſcouragements ſome little glimmering of hope appeared.

27. My watch word was: "May my fruitfulneſs bear ſome proportion to all the dew and rain, through the unmerited bounty of God beſtowed!"

29. Na-

29. Nature gave way to grace in divers ſpiritual labours.

30. Feaſted a little beyond the holy limits.

31. An oblique oppoſition to the youth's meeting, grievous to me, as it came from an otherwiſe beloved brother.

Fourth Month 1767.

1. Opened my monthly retreat.

Sixty-eight and $\frac{3}{12}$ years are paſt. The grand point ſeems to be looſening from the world, and every thing goodly and ſpecious in nature.

The *Maraſmus ſenilis* (emaciating old age) comes on.

2. Deſerted by a brother in the holding the youth's meeting: I think he is greatly miſtaken: let the event be marked, if the Lord will; to whom I ſubmit my cauſe, having diſcharged my conſcience.

I thought I had ſurely ſeveral marks of the King's favour, though I muſt not reſt here, but ſtill preſs forward; and not be weary in well-doing. Surely God hath enlightened thee in the proper duties of an elder: go on in the diligent exerciſe thereof: the end of the race ſeems to be near: it is ſomewhat admirable it has been ſo long protracted: the Lord knoweth what is beſt. Amen!

3. Held our monthly conference, from which appeared the tranſcendently ſuperior

diligence of my brother, and ſo no wonder he improves more in the ſpiritual graces than I, who, as infirm, and inevitably engaged in the concerns of fleſh and blood, cannot be ſo active in ſpirituals. He indeed prompts me to ſuperior ardour; but, I ſay, 'Let not the ſhoemaker go beyond his laſt.' However, may I be a ſtone to be trodden upon, rather than be excluded from a place in the heavenly building!

4. O Lord, raiſe up more labourers in a faithful preſbytery, in thy vineyard; and confound, yet preſerve and rectify thoſe many falſe brethren, who neither pray this prayer, nor act according to the ſpirit of it, but by withdrawing their own ſhoulders, and calling out for foreign aid, neglect the gift that lies dormant in themſelves, and unmercifully, and from a ſpirit oppoſite to that of brotherly kindneſs as ſpiritual help-meets, throw the load on miniſters, who have work enough otherwiſe, and in a diſtinct ſphere.

5. A good winter campaign, bleſſed be the Lord! who has enabled me to finiſh a ſecond fair tranſcript of certain labours in nature of fifty years.

I return now, Lord, with thy permiſſion to digeſt the labours of my youth in another branch: but, Lord, lift up my heart to higher and better objects in a holy preference of the heavenly to the earthly, aſſiſt and proſper my feeble endeavours in the preſbytery, and ſtrengthen the hearts and hands of my new

aſſociates

aſſociates in this important work, and raiſe up others!

This day was held a ſixth ſilent meeting, and yet to me it was animated in ſome degree, bleſſed be the Lord!

Lord, take not away the hedge with which thou haſt fenced us, but give wiſdom to preſerve it!

6. Viſited two ſpiritual patients or delinquents, in a ſocial capacity.

10. Lord, turn the heart of my brother, who is forſaking me in the day of battle: fruſtrate the devices of the power of darkneſs to divide and weaken us! and grant we may ſtill continue to be a help to each other!

A ſilent meeting, but attended with the following ſweet illuminations. 1. The firſt and better half of my life was a dream, even a life of unbelief and idolatry, in preferring nature to grace, and a vain fancy of virtue and vice being their own recompence, even in this life, excluſive of the croſs to be borne, and of the exerciſes and troubles entailed on every honeſt diſciple, as preliminaries to the crown. 2. That this life is aſſuredly a ſtate of baniſhment. 3. A grateful ſenſe of a happy converſion in the latter part of my life: I cannot praiſe God enough for it.

12. Was encouraged in the afternoon meeting by ſome viſible fruits of our labours in the preſbytery.

14. God bleſſed my temporals, whilſt I was ſmartly engaged in the above religious viſit.

Diſ-

Diſcharged my conſcience, but in a ſocial capacity, in bringing forward two play-haunters to the cognizance of the meeting: but, O how feeble a concurrence there! Let us call for the mourning women.

15. Impatient on croſs calls.

18. A hint to travellers: on a church expedition, after a ſmall doſe of punch, and the agitation of the carriage, was, not fuddled, but leſs clear in the upper region, ſo far, that it obſcured the exerciſe of my talent in the religious viſit which followed: my brother, however, ſupplied my defect, and the fumes of indigeſtion vaniſhing, I ſeconded him. A bodily gentle affliction ſucceeded, a chaſtiſement too gentle for me.

19. Proceeded with vigilance in our viſit: my brother outſhone me in this ſervice: my heart was endeared to him, and I prayed for his proſperity.

In the midſt of great lukewarmneſs, careleſſneſs, and worldly diſtractions, here ſeemed to be ſome degree of acceſs, not an abſolute repulſe in this viſit.

In theſe travels we met with a tender and ſavoury propoſal for holding little meetings (in a ſituation remote from the publick meeting) among the children and others, which was encouraged. May it not die away, or vaniſh as the morning dew!

28. Diſcharged my conſcience in relation to the mourning habits.

FIFTH MONTH 1767.

Opened monthly retreat and conference. More meekneſs and more heavenly mindedneſs is yet wanting.

This day, for want of a timely forecaſt, and of a greater degree of the heavenly fire, I robbed God of near half an hour. My brother exceeds me much in this reſpect. We are neither of us without ſpots, and particularly that of quickneſs to anger; we truſt, however, that this is not a ſin unto death, but that we have an advocate with the Father.

My brother remarks, that ſome of the meaner miniſters have more ſeals to their miniſtry than ſome of the more ſpecious.

Saw clearly my great weakneſs, and that I cannot ſee death and judgment ſo near as undoubtedly they are, without the help of a better remembrancer.

3. A ſilent afternoon meeting, though national: God is ſhaking from all human dependencies. It was no diſappointment to me, who had bread in my own houſe, and wanted not for a prayer for more meekneſs, and more heavenly mindedneſs.

5. The meeting for worſhip a long time ſilent, though attended by three foreign miniſters; and what was offered was to a worldly carnal-minded people, though a conſiderable part of the congregation conſiſted of elders.

Had

Had a ſtrong occaſion for caution in drinking wine previous to the diſcipline meeting, and ſaw the neceſſity of either not drinking it at all on ſuch occaſions, or with great fear and trembling.

6. Notwithſtanding the above obſervation, the miniſtry ſtill abides faithful, not tickling the ear with fine words, but dealing forth admonition and reproof where due.

10. My love of the brethren increaſes, bleſſed be the Lord, being firmly perſuaded that here is a faithful few.

Great and uſeful diſcoveries in nature, whilſt the holy preference of the ſaving knowledge of Chriſt is held up to my view and purſuit: ſo give to purſue it, good Lord, and preſerve from every idol, thou who art a jealous God!

11. The botanick walk was revived on principle, though an utter indolence prevails among thoſe whom it moſt concerns.

19. Abſtained from fleſh on medical principles, which was ſucceeded by a chearful dream, and a ſpiritual ſong in the morning: hence I learnt the advantage of partial faſting.

22. At a ſilent meeting, a clear viſion, on a retroſpection of the latter and better part of my life, of my ſpiritual poverty, extreme tardineſs, and ſnail-like progreſs, and my great penury in the Chriſtian graces and fruits of the ſpirit. Surely, I will never be proud any more.

24. The "vanity of vanities"—of Solomon; and—"Love not the world"—of John, were ſweetly impreſſed.

Saw the juſtice of God in withholding the clouds from a fruitleſs vineyard; for ſurely, in general, things wax worſe and worſe, and we ſeem plainly to have merited the appellation of 'Sandy builders.' Lord, awaken my poor ſoul to the oppoſite ſtate, and ſo to fight, as not beating the air; ſo to run, as to obtain!

25. It continues a mournful reflexion (and verily mourning is our portion) that God is remarkably ſmiting our ſhepherds, and what will become of the ſheep he only knoweth? Let him be thy refuge on this occaſion.

26. A laborious diſcipline-meeting, and a degree of faithfulneſs there, whilſt ſeveral that ought to be pillars, ran off. God gave patience, and even joy in ſuffering for his cauſe.

29. Be no longer abſorbed in ſtudies, which centre in the meer body.

Some illuminations from the accoutrements and exerciſes of the Jewiſh Prieſts and Levites, particularly their bearing with them on their breaſts the names of the ſeveral tribes, their bearing the iniquities of the people in their holy things, and the Levites carrying the ark of the teſtimony on their ſhoulders, analogous in ſome ſort to the labours of the elders in the exerciſe of the holy diſcipline in the Chriſtian church.

Humbled

30. Humbled down to the earth on reading that obſervation of a ſpiritual author: 'Few, very few, keep the two capital commandments of God perfectly, viz. To love God with all the heart, and one's neighbour as himſelf.'

I will ſay of myſelf, that I do not keep theſe commandments perfectly—Shall I not therefore henceforward caſt off all pride and ſelf-conceit, and look unto Jeſus, that he may clothe me with his righteouſneſs? Unto him, who is called the Lord our Righteouſneſs, and who came to fulfil all righteouſneſs.

31. Our diſtinguiſhing badge is the renunciation of ſuperfluities of all kinds, with reſpect to either profit or pleaſure: and at a ſilent meeting a ſweet illumination of the glory, beauty, and pleaſure of the liberty we profeſs to aſpire unto, even to be freed from all inordinate attachments to the pleaſures, profits, and the vain honours of this world; a liberty of promoting truth upon earth, by being freed from incumbrances.

Now, in the courſe of my reading, I find ſeveral, not within our pale, but of another fold, aſſerting and maintaining this grand poſition common to us and them, viz. That God is to be loved with the whole heart, and that neither profit, honour, nor pleaſure are to be purſued, but from neceſſity, and for the good of our neighbour.

This

This day was held the eighth ſilent meeting ſucceſſively. I was heavy and ſleepy there, but the fire was not out.

SIXTH MONTH 1767.

1. A botanick walk on principle, but miſerably attended: our medical as well as eccleſiaſtical ſtate is ſick.

2. Monthly retreat.

Sixty-eight $\frac{3}{12}$ years are now paſt, and the judge is at the door: what lack I?

ANSW. I cannot name one of the Chriſtian graces and fruits of the ſpirit, v. g. Love, joy, peace, long-ſuffering, temperance, knowledge, &c. in which I am not deficient; Lord, increaſe my little ſtore!

The ninth ſilent meeting; and though ſleepineſs attacked again, the fire was not out: however, the clouds are withdrawing, and the hedge is not kept in that good repair that it ought to be. Lord, look down, and have mercy! thou alone art my refuge: preſerve, and give not to keep as do others, according to a lively hint lately given in a provincial epiſtle.

5. Held our monthly conference: my brother is in labours far more abundant than I, and in conſolations too. I am ſtill groveling in nature, though I hope to God's glory; but he in a higher ſphere.

Prejudices laid aſide, ſome of the inſtitutions of his ſociety are truly amiable, particularly their early riſing, their open ſpiritual conferences one with another on the ſubject of the ſtate of their ſouls in ſolid experience, tending to humble, correct, and animate, according to the apoſtle James v. 16. "Confeſs your faults to one another, and pray for one another.

5. The tenth ſilent meeting.

What if we, who have been ſignally favoured by repeated viſitations, and have avowed making covenant with God, and a renunciation of the world, ſhould at laſt become worldly (as we certainly are, unleſs our ſeers have been blind) and as ſuch be forſaken of God, and left deſolate? Truly this would be no more than befel our ſiſter Laodicea. Righteous are thy ways, O God!

7. The eleventh ſilent meeting.

A conference in relation to ſome practical atheiſts, who entirely forſake the publick meetings for worſhip.

8. God ſtrengthened in good degree to give the preference of grace to nature to day.

9. I believe ſome late labours in the preſbytery have not been fruitleſs.

11. A continued ſtagnation of buſineſs among our manufacturers from the probability of a want of demand from America: to this add the expulſion of the Jeſuits, not from one, but even moſt ſtates of Europe; and among ourſelves the practical atheiſm of divers, and

and the prevailing lukewarmneſs of others, notwithſtanding repeated remonſtrances, and conſider whether God is not ariſing to ſhake terribly the earth.

11. In Gill's Comment on Exodus, a marvelous evidence of the divine preſcience, and of the gift of prophecy in Moſes and Jacob, tranſcending all human foreſight, in the ſettlements of the ſeveral tribes in the land of Canaan.

13. A ſpiritual viſit to one, in whom a moſt deplorable ſtupidity appeared.

14. More faſting is wanted, for the health of body and ſoul, and for the ſins of our people.

Both meetings ſilent, but luminous, waſhing, preparing for judgment, and improving in the Chriſtian graces internally enforced.

17. At the quarterly youth's meeting diſcharged my conſcience. Behold, thou art openly enliſted. Lord, preſerve!

18. A botanick walk and feaſt rather beyond ſtrict bounds, though well deſigned, even to preſerve the knowledge of plants.

19. Bleſſed be the Lord, on a review of our late feeble efforts in the church way, the ſentence is not yet gone, 'Let Ephraim alone.' We have indeed been ſtrongly threatened, but are not wholly abandoned. What ſhall we do but turn about to the hand that has ſtricken us, and kiſs the rod? And who knoweth but ſome little ones ſhall become as David? Amen, ſweet Lord!

21. An open meeting both morning and afternoon, and truth in its ſolidity declared. A hint of a freſh appearance in the miniſtry in the prophetick ſtyle: mark the iſſue.

22. A wonderful hiſtory of the triumphant death of a ſiſter, though not of our fold, who manifeſted by faith a conſpicuous foretaſte of heaven.

23. In a certain correſpondence I am almoſt left alone. My brother is in the briars, and ſleepineſs hath laid hold of him: Lord, awaken him, as thou haſt me, leſt we all fall into the ſpiritual lethargy, which is overſpreading the people!

A laborious diſcipline-meeting, wherein, amidſt ſome matters of great ſcandal, ſome grounds of encouragement in treating with delinquents appear.

25 to 29. At a quarterly meeting, according to my vow. Here God favoured with a faithful clear miniſtry. The preaching was moſtly of the hewing kind, with regard to formality in worſhip, and earthly mindedneſs.

The meeting of miniſters and elders was extraordinarily luminous; (O the difference between this and our mixed congregation at home!) even as live coals kindling one another, nine preachers, fifteen ſpeakers, and two prayers in one meeting, among whom was a righteous concurrence in the doleful ſymphony proper to theſe times.

SEVENTH

SEVENTH MONTH. 1767.

1. Monthly retreat.

Sixty-eight and ½ years are now paſt: how much more remains, thou, Lord, only knoweſt! O, prepare for the awful hour! Cleanſe from every impurity of fleſh and ſpirit! Give an increaſe of love to thee, and to my neighbour!

2. Held our monthly conference: my brother deſpiſeth himſelf more than a year ago; notwithſtanding ſome raptures. We ſympathize with each other with reſpect unto a certain thorn in the fleſh, even a moroſeneſs in temper not yet wholly ſubdued, notwithſtanding all the helps we have received.

A revival of Chriſtian diſcipline in a neighbouring county, and attended with ſome real fruits.

Humbled under a ſenſe of ſome hypocriſy, in having been more in words than in life.

5. A prophetick declaration at meeting, that, amidſt the prevailing ſpread of carnal liberty, a cloud of true witneſſes will be raiſed up. Amen!

6. Forty-three years have I reſided here, and yet in reality do ſcarcely believe myſelf to be old, and in a migrating way: Lord, ſend forth thy light and thy truth!

12. Read of Baal's prieſts cutting themſelves with knives and lancets, in 1 Kings xviii. which furniſhed the following reflections, part-

ly as old as Eraſmus, and ſurely very juſt: viz. The true Chriſtian, notwithſtanding his troubles, is a greater Epicure than the wicked man. This laſt takes more pains to work out his damnation, than the other does for his ſalvation. Witneſs the diabolical vigils of the drunkard, the labours, toils, and diſtreſſes of the covetous, whether of money, or of ſcience, for meer oſtentation: O what anxious ſtudies are undergone! And let the time ſpent on the objects of the purſuit of the firſt be compared to thoſe relating to everlaſting ſalvation, and it will be found to bear but a ſmall proportion. Surely, 'the world is mad, and none but the ſincere Chriſtian is in his ſenſes.'

The meeting dull and low, and in me attended with flatulence, until the London yearly epiſtle was read, affording encouragement in the exerciſe of Chriſtian diſcipline, in regard to bankruptcies, plays, and ſports.

14. Surfeiting and drunkenneſs, and the cares of this life, were preſented to my view, when I appeared pretty clear of the two laſt, but not of the firſt: Lord, purge thoroughly! Took up the croſs upon my ſhoulders.

16. A quiet, ſolitary walk to a village, in a ſweet and grateful commemoration of the day of my eſpouſals to my Lord there, being about thirteen years ago; and took a ſummary view of my laborious life, and hoped that the laſt days were the beſt.

17. Meet-

17. Meeting ſilent, and extremely heavy and dull. However, God gave courage to proceed in concert in a religious viſit to the country, which proved a viſit to the dead and half-dead, among whom, one went away from us. The caſe ſeemed to be utter lukewarmneſs and indevotion. I eſteemed it a ſpecial favour and bounty of God to me, who have been an old idolater, to have been placed among my betters, who abundantly ſupplied my defects in this ſervice.

22. One country meeting annexed to Dublin is gone, a ſecond is going without a miracle, and a third threatens alſo a diſſolution: death commonly begins at the extremities: Lord, thou knoweſt what will become of the head: Lord, preſerve a faithful few in thy favour, and if it it be thy will, raiſe up more: thy ways are ways of wonder.

An eminent ſaint declared, in my hearing, whilſt we were opening the ſtate of ſouls to each other, that he had been no leſs than thirty years fighting with unrighteous anger in his own boſom.

23. Well: the clouds, the outward miniſtry, are in a great meaſure withdrawn, and now impends the trial of the ſpirits of many, for determining who adheres to the King inviſible, Chriſt Jeſus, the perpetual preſident of the aſſemblies of the ſaints, and who not.

25. A converſation with a wonderful man, a Chriſtian hero, as I hope, who has eſtabliſhed ſeveral ſocieties in the practice of ſpiritual

ritual conferences, even in ſuch parts of this kingdom, as ſeem to have been the greateſt aliens to Chriſt.

26. Humbled at meeting, and a dejection of ſpirits from flatulence and indigeſtion, from ſome degree, as I thought, of the ſpirit of gluttony; yet the holy fire was not extinguiſhed, bleſſed be the Lord!

29. Rummaged the cloſet for divers epiſtles, pamphlets, and exhortations, printed for our ſpiritual benefit, but lying dormant and uſeleſs, purpoſing to bring them forth as heavenly treaſures.

31. My natural affairs ſeem to proſper better, notwithſtanding that the ſpiritual of late have had the aſcendency, and that maxim of "Godlineſs having the promiſe of this life, and of that to come," was confirmed: as alſo that ſaying of the wiſe man, Prov. iii. "Fear the Lord, and depart from evil: it ſhall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones."

A new piece of ſpiritual chymiſtry, even to grow better on obſerving the faults of others.

EIGHTH MONTH 1767.

1. A heart-ſearching time.

Sixty-eight and ½ years are paſt: Lord, cleanſe from every alloy of impurity of fleſh and ſpirit. Preſerve and deliver not only

from acts of drunkenneſs, gluttony, and ambition, but from the very ſpirit of thoſe vices, even the living to eat and to drink, and to know; and ſo from eating, drinking, and ſtudying for any other end, but the glory of God, and the real benefit of my neighbour, as well as of myſelf.

Memento, memento mori: but O my ſtupidity, whilſt the organs begin to fail, even the ears, the eyes, and the grinders of the mill, and the fleſh that covers thee! Awake, awake, O my ſoul! Death and judgment are at thy door. Lord, ſearch and cleanſe!

2. Two foreigners ſhewed unto Iſrael his ſin, feeding with wholeſome, (i. e. bitter) food; and at the diſcipline-meeting our nakedneſs was expoſed in two important reſpects. 1. The neglect of the meeting for worſhip previous to the other. 2. The neighbouring meetings, branches of ours, very often ſending no repreſentatives, nor apology for this omiſſion.

8. A bleſſed day in the holding our monthly conference: we travel on and labour, and fight and hope.

I bleſs thee, Lord, and magnify thy ſuperlative goodneſs to me, in thus placing me in an awakening view of the ſuperior ardour of others.

11. A group of paupers beyond my fund of patience, which I deplored at meeting, where was a dolorous ſound, and ſtruggle with the lukewarm.

12. O

12. O my ſtubborn will! Not yet paſſive enough to ſome events, nor can I yet repeat with ſincerity that portion of the prayer, "Thy will be done on earth," but the voice of murmur is yet heard: Lord, ariſe and ſilence it!

14. A ſilent meeting with two ſtrangers; and what then? It is good to know how to want, and how to abound, and to learn that the worſhip of God conſiſteth not eſſentially, either in ſpeaking or in hearing; for neither the ſayers of the word, nor the hearers of it, are juſtified, but the doers, now and for evermore.

16. The afternoon meeting miſerably neglected. I really think that they do not believe in the inward teacher, every outward one being this day removed.

In the ſilent meeting, attacked with ſleepineſs, but not ſleep; and a cloud hung on the miniſtry, diſperſed, however, by and by, and the ſum of the declaration was to direct to the inward teacher.

18. I bow and worſhip thy wonderful goodneſs to me, Lord, even in thy countleſs Providences to me all my life long, in pitying the weakneſſes and ſins of my youth and manhood, and in now ſweetening my old age, giving vigour of body and mind, with the happy opportunity of a proper review and diſpoſal of the labours of my youth; but, above all, with faith in Chriſt Jeſus, in all his manifeſtations and offices, and with the pre-

cious

cious books I have been plentifully ſupplied with for my ſpiritual improvement. Who ſo favoured? May I walk more worthily!

A ſilent meeting, and not unprofitable. No miniſter but Chriſt Jeſus, now deſpiſed, as in the days of his fleſh.

A laborious diſcipline-meeting, wherein truth and its teſtimony prevailed againſt immorality.

19. Preſented the meeting with a liſt of ſpiritual books buried in the cloſet, in order that they might be brought forth and ſcattered for uſe.

A feaſt, rather beyond the holy bounds. Our entertainments carry a ſting in their tail.

20. Read a portion of Kempis, and was favoured with a clear viſion of many juſt ſubjects of mourning over our preſent ſtate, and tending to wean from the world, viz. 1. The low eſtate of the elders, and the miniſtry almoſt withdrawn; and thoſe who ſhould be teachers are themſelves children. 2. The low eſtate of an important branch of my natural profeſſion, wholly neglected by thoſe whom it moſt concerns. 3. The prevailing uſe of ſpirituous liquors to the bane of the body and ſoul. 4. The tranſitorineſs of all things here daily open to my view, and my own haſtening diſſolution and call to judgment. 6. The puniſhment of everlaſting fire denounced, not only againſt the openly prophane, but the ſober ſinners in Sion, and the lukewarm to be ſpewed out of the mouth of the holy one.

7. The

7. The vaſt multitude that is running on in the broad way that leadeth to deſtruction. 8. Unbelief, the ſource of all this, notwithſtanding the ſtrength of the evidences of the Old and New Teſtament, and the works of grace exhibited in our day.

A croſs call with murmur, undoubtedly a ſin.

21. God ſtrengthened me to make ſome ſteps in the narrow way, under conſiderable diſcouragements.

A dreadful glimpſe of the curſe impending on the barren ground that has been often watered.

23. Both meetings ſilent, but animated in a ſweet attraction to higher degrees of purity and love.

Lord, thou haſt ſignally ſmitten, and now ſcattered even all our miniſters: have mercy upon the ſheep, if it be thy will! Lift up our hearts to thee the Shepherd of Iſrael: and animate us in the lower ſtation to come up in a faithful diſcharge of the important duties incumbent on us!

A daily ſenſe of the neceſſity of foreign aid to make heavenly-minded, feeling a perpetual dragging down to the concerns of fleſh and blood, worms meat, and deſtined to be ſo by God's irreverſible decree.

24. Lord, inſpire with that ſupreme love to thee, and next to my neighbour, which is the fulfilling of law and goſpel. On the contrary, view the ſtate of the world, where

(as

(as our Penn ſays) 'Religion as well as civility is degenerated into ceremony,' even in the ſeveral duties of the firſt and ſecond table: as to the firſt, inſtead of the real love of God, and fear to offend him, are ſubſtituted ſaying of prayers, lip-labour, fruitleſs ſpeaking and hearing: and as to the ſecond, the love of one's neighbour (the fundamental of all the duties we owe him, which are not a few, and from which true good manners, and a complaiſance truly Chriſtian, proceed) inſtead of this, the image of the thing is ſubſtituted: 'your humble ſervant,' ſays one to another (and ſuch as indeed every ſincere Chriſtian is to his neighbour) but he does not mean the thing, nor do the work. Is not this a criminal hypocriſy to be deprecated!

26. My ſmall fund of patience was exhauſted in a group of paupers, fruſtrating my intended retirement to the country. I liſtened to them, however, though with reluctance. Ten patients, and not a penny.

30. At meeting a ſweet appearance in a member of low degree, appoſite to our forlorn ſtate: alſo, after worſhip was ended, diſcharged my conſcience of a load.

NINTH MONTH 1767.

1. The meeting miſerably attended, even worſe and worſe, notwithſtanding all remonſtrances.

Saw my own defects, and ſaid, I will never be proud any more.

4. A reſtleſs night from luxury and indigeſtion, a juſt puniſhment.

We held our monthly conference, in company with an alien, hoping it might be to his edification, as we did evidently ſympathize one with another in our infirmities, and ſome alloys of ſin, which we deplore. My brother's degree of aſſurance is greater than mine. We hope we are travelling to the better country.

5. A feaſt, and not a word of Chriſt there.

6. Hot in the night from ſome degree of luxury, though in what is called a plain dinner. Lord, muſt I go out of the world to avoid temptation? Saw in the clear viſion, that our tables are become a ſnare to us: what then is to be ſaid of kickſhaws, and the feaſts of Heliogabalus, and all of his ſpirit! Methinks the righteous ſhall ſcarcely be ſaved. Lord, I do not eat and drink to thy glory enough, nor even for the health of my body, thy temple! O God, in the name of thy beloved Son, I beſeech thee, pardon this ſin, give thy holy fear, and let every thing be done with a view to thy glory!

A cloud of darkneſs and ſleepineſs over the ſecond meeting: God gave courage to teſtify againſt it at the cloſe of the meeting.

A falſe, unrighteous tenderneſs to individuals, in preference to the publick: Lord, ſupport,

ſupport, and grant that this ſpirit may be overcome and put to flight!

11. Above half of the people are aſleep, and I myſelf feel the contagion: Lord, rouſe! Soul, awake! the bridegroom cometh.

God gave grace to prefer Jeruſalem to worldly pelf.

14. Every worldling is blind, and, for that cauſe only, can ſee no beauty in the holy diſcipline eſtabliſhed: on this occaſion, a text in Philippians, viz. ii. 1. was brought into my mind, and reading on to ver. 21. found this to be a true portraiture of the worldling in every age, viz. "All ſeek their own, and not the things which are Jeſus Chriſt's." And the reverſe of this to be a true deſcription of the goſpel ſpirit in ver. 4. viz. "Look not every man on his own things, but every man alſo on the things of others."

16. God opened my eye to ſee a beauty in the holy diſcipline, whilſt the eyes of ſeveral of my contemporaries are quite cloſed in this reſpect.

20. It is plain that worldly embaraſſments are the real drawback to many from coming up in an holy activity: ſo then the interior watch-word of the day was, "Love not the "world."

An exerciſe with practical atheiſts, i. e. deſerters of publick worſhip, brought to a proper reſult.

N. B. The youth here have no ſuch opportunities of private religious meetings in

families, which were frequent with us both in the North and Weſt of England. If then a ſucceeding generation be raiſed, it muſt be by miraculous means.

23. A ſpiritual viſit, in concert, to two tardy brethren.

25. Two church viſits to the tardy.

27. Thou muſt not only pray, but watch, and double the guard, particularly on proſpects of impatience on croſs events, "even the ſin which eaſily beſets."

Behold and adore the diſplays of divine wiſdom and preſcience abundantly interſperſed in the Holy Scriptures, infinitely tranſcending our medical prognoſtications, and the views of the moſt cunning politicians. Surely here grace eminently triumphs over nature.

God opened mine eyes to ſee a beauty in exerciſing my calling for love, ſuperior by far to that of exerciſing it for money: yet patience ſometimes fails: O thou long-ſuffering God, ſupply this defect!

30. A ſpiritual viſit, in concert, to ſeven tardy brethren.

TENTH MONTH 1767.

2. Held our monthly conference: we fight, and are ſometimes wounded, but not killed: my brother is in labour far more abundant than I, pretty much among young converts,

verts, I among children, and lukewarm formal profeſſors.

6. If "I forget Jeruſalem, if I prefer her not to my chief joy," &c. was the watch-word of the day, even at our ſilent meeting.

It ſeemed highly expedient in our ſpiritual church-exerciſe, that the few ſeniors ſhould yoke ſome of the juniors, and teach and bring them on in the ſervice: the prudent of this world do this, and ſhall the children of light be always fools? God, avert!

11. A luminous meeting. 1. In a grateful ſenſe of ſome degree of progreſs in the work of an elder and viſitor. 2. In being bounded in my natural purſuits. 3. In a ſweet goſpel-ſound from a miniſter: moreover, God gave grace to open the mattin with a chapter.

Holy vigilance and circumſpection, leſt the earth and its concerns ſhould prevail over heaven, was God's counſel and injunction to me.

14. One of our few paſtors left, fed the people with wholeſome food, though bitter: no flattery, no peace to formaliſts, but a faithful alarm of the danger.

16. Was led on to a new exerciſe, viz. A propoſal to collect flowers from the Holy Scriptures every morning, even as a holy ſtratagem, whereby to counteract the ſpirit of worldly covetouſneſs.

18. At a ſilent meeting: bleſſed the Lord that the holy ſtruggle within is maintained,

and for the hope that heaven is beginning to gain the aſcendant over earth.

A preſſure towards the humility and meekneſs of Chriſt our pattern, and the heavenly wiſdom, which is pure, peaceable, gentle, and eaſy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits.

19. Proceeded in culling ſpiritual flowers as above: elſe a poor barren day in ſpirituals.

20. In ſilence at meeting: a ſweet hope that ſome late labours in the preſbytery have aſſuredly not been fruitleſs.

23. A deficiency in point of meekneſs on two croſs calls. Lord, ſupply this defect, Thou who ſaidſt, "I am meek," &c.

A view of the ſtate of the Chriſtian church now, of the Patriarchal church, of that in the wilderneſs, and of the Jewiſh, all attended with various exerciſes and diſtreſſes, and ours now with falſe brethren, in their contempt of their native rights to liberty, and, inſtead of prizing it, becoming voluntary ſlaves and faſhion-mongers.

24. Lord, what will be the fate of thoſe who turn their backs on thy declaration, that "where two or three are gathered in thy name, thou art in the midſt of them?

Answ. There will be great deſertions: a ſpirit of unbelief; ſleep and ſloth are gone forth, by an intoxication worſe than that of wine, even by the ſpirit of this world: and the trial of the faith and patience of a few is at hand: Lord, preſerve, leſt theſe ſhould

alſo

alſo be ſwallowed up in the common torrent of corruption!

24. A faſt. Sweet content reigns.

A delightful old age, in reviewing and digeſting the labours of my youth, embittered, however, by the ſtate of the church.

27. At the diſcipline-meeting God gave courage to diſcharge my conſcience, on occaſion of the modern mock-mourning, and otherwiſe: and, bleſſed be the Lord, ſome fruit of certain late labours appeared this day.

ELEVENTH MONTH 1767.

2. Lord, give the ſpirit to animate every form, and every ſingularity, has been the loud cry theſe ſeveral days, and continues.

4. Parting-meeting well, miniſterially, and otherwiſe. God gave ſtrength to offer ſome hints.

8. Opens my monthly retreat.

Sixty-eight $\frac{10}{12}$ years are now paſt, and, according to God's ordinary appointment, excluſive of all accidents, only one $\frac{10}{12}$ years remain: ſhall I then be any longer worldly? I am ready to ſay, nay; but ſtill want ſuperior help: ſo help, good Lord!

QUEST. What lack I elſe?

ANSW. On reckoning up the ſeveral Chriſtian graces, enumerated by the apoſtle, there is not one in which I want not a growth: Lord, increaſe my little ſtore!

9. Still

9. Still on a call to the youth by the miniſtry: ſhall not the preſbytery join them?

Held our monthly conference, which afforded abundant matter for contemplation, and hearty thankfulneſs to a gracious Providence, for placing me among my betters, even living incentives to higher degrees of faith, of love, and of holy vigilance and ſpiritual induſtry, being engaged in ſpiritual exerciſes while I am in bed. I am aſhamed of myſelf, yet I will look up to theſe with admiration, and a degree of holy emulation, and catch a little of their holy fire: ſo help me, Lord!

A generation is ſprung up, who calls the animated Chriſtian an enthuſiaſt, or one infeſted with a degree of madneſs: now, let us conſider whether theſe, or their cenſors, be the madmen.

Among theſe are ſome of ourſelves, who are content with hearing and ſaying, and not doing; who aſſemble only when they have nothing elſe to do, and give unto God the refuſe of their time, inſtead of the beſt, offering to him the laſt of the fruits, who enjoins us to offer him the firſt. Are theſe in their ſenſes? Surely, nay; but fools, and mad, and blind, mockers of God, and deceivers of their own ſouls.

O my ſoul, come not thou into their ſecret, but awake to the communion of ſaints on earth, as the only proper preparative to that of the ſaints in glory.

22. Saw

22. Saw the expediency of daily refreſhing my memory concerning the love of God in Chriſt Jeſus.

24. A laborious diſcipline-meeting, and miſerably attended, divers running off before the concluſion: diſcharged my conſcience with a degree of fidelity, though in weakneſs. Was confirmed in the judgment, that we are fallen aſleep.

Snappiſh on a croſs call: Lord, pardon! I have ſinned.

28. Proceeded on a long meditated eccleſiaſtical journey, with two ſiſters engaged in the ſame ſervice; and moreover, two pilgrim brethren, who, unawed by the badneſs of roads, and any regard to their healths, travelled on foot. Verily, theſe had more merit than we charioteers.

29. Proceeded on the ſervice impending, holding firſt a meeting of worſhip, then another of conference ſeverally with the men and women, wherein a moſt diſmal proſpect of things appeared, viz. An almoſt utter neglect of publick divine worſhip (except ſuch lame ſacrifices which are offered when nothing temporal is to be done) and an alienation from the peculiar glory and privileges of our ſpiritual Iſrael, and deſolation and death ſpiritual ſtrongly threaten.

TWELFTH MONTH 1767.

1. A glimpſe of the glory of the Sons of God, elect, and ſeparated from the world and its corruptions.

2. The youth's meeting, wherein God gave utterance, and ſome degree of boldneſs; and two appoſite exhortations and a prayer followed. Diſtributed ſome of our books.

3. Shall I not embrace death, and every ſorrow and trouble occurring, even as God's righteous decree, my juſt doom and puniſhment for former and latter ſins? Lord, help, and ſilence the voice of murmur in my habitation for ever! O ſend forth thy light and thy truth, yet more and more, even unto the perfect day!

From the perplexities of natural ſcience, and from the love of human applauſe, good Lord, deliver, and let my ſole aim be to pleaſe thee, and to be recorded in thy book: all elſe is uncertain and fluctuating as the waters: give me to know myſelf; let not my ſins nor errors be concealed from me: waſh from foot to head! Breathe holineſs on my natural ſtudies! May they be directed to thy glory, and the good of my neighbour ſolely, without the alloy of human reſpects or views!

Deliver entirely from the madneſs of the inordinate love of the world in old age! On the contrary, let this ſtate prove fruitful in heavenly mindedneſs, in faith and love, and

in

in every Chriſtian grace, and be attended with a holy and righteous contempt of every thing that relates to this mortal ſtate, compared to the regard due to the immortal!

Memento mori is the eſtabliſhed motto: but verily I want ſuperior help to keep it in my remembrance; whereas it ought to be effectual to the like end as the Jewiſh phylacteries.

6. Methinks I ſee ſome ſtriplings coming forth to our help! Lord, proſper them!

7. An aſſociation for mutual defence of friends of the town and country, in regard to a tythe-bill. I ſee God can bring good out of evil, even thus uniting the ſheep, which elſe would be ſcattered, and become aliens to one another, and to the common cauſe.

8. A ſilent meeting, and an humbling one, in a review of the ſins of my youth and age, and of the deficiency of meer moral righteouſneſs, with a grateful ſenſe of God's long-ſuffering and ſweet viſitation in this my declining age.

A miſerably thin diſcipline-meeting; five active members abſent. Is not the Lord ſhaking our pillars? Sick of the church.

9. Soul, awake! Let God be thy refuge and truſt in theſe calamitous times. [1] *Felix quem faciunt aliena pericula cautum.*

Remember, falſe brethren are no new thing: they bring up the rear of the perils to which

[1] He is happy who takes warning by others dangers.

Paul

Paul the apoſtle was expoſed, among ſeveral others to which thou art a ſtranger.

10. Exerciſed my quarterly review of caſes. * *Acta eorumque juvat meminiſſe laborum.*

11. A bleſſed ſilent meeting, with the following ſweet illuminations for my own uſe: this world is a paradiſe to none but fools. Duſt is our origin and our end: and thorns and thiſtles our portion and deſtiny here.

I have been too worldly and barren in ſpirituals this week paſt, though I ſee eternity at my door.

Moreover, I ſaw the narrow way in the clear viſion, and that our preſent ſtate is no new thing, but that now, as formerly, it is hard for a rich man to be ſaved, and that the poor alſo now are choſen, not many of the rich and mighty.

14. Dinner bread and water, and leſs of any thing ſpirituous, having enjoined myſelf ſuch a partial faſt, both for the good of body and ſoul, and particularly to implore the help of that good ſpirit, which was to bring death, judgment, and other things to remembrance.

19. A new ſong: time was, that I did not prefer Jeruſalem to my chief earthly joy: time is, that I do, bleſſed be God, who hath changed my heart! Time was, that I was blinded by the God of this world, not ſeeing it as it was and is, but as it was not, and is not, and ſtill leſs ſeeing, or not having a

* And it is pleaſant to remember paſt labours.

diſtant

diſtant proſpect, by faith, of the glories of the other world: but God hath opened the blind eye, and moreover he hath alſo unſtopped the deaf ear, ſo that I now hear his voice in the city, in the various diſpenſations of his Providence, and he hath taken away my lameneſs, and enabled me not only to walk, but run: and, to crown all, the Captain, who was made perfect through ſufferings, hath alſo given me the honour of ſuffering a little for his cauſe in theſe calamitous times and days of forgetfulneſs of God.

20. The Lord hath delivered me as a bird from the ſnares of compotators.

23. I will yet dwell in the valley evermore: ſo help, Lord! becauſe, days without number I have been ſecretly carried away by the prevailing torrent of the infidelity of modern times.

Lord, we are unworthy of thy favours and tender viſitations: thou art deſervedly ſhaking our pillars, and commanding the clouds to withhold their rain, and threatening to take away the hedge, and expoſe us to prey and deſtruction! O mayſt thou be my refuge and hiding-place, who ſeeſt and knoweſt all theſe things, and the end thereof, though far beyond our ſhort ken!

27. Every conſideration invites to heavenly mindedneſs, particularly the ſufficiency of earthly treaſure, and the nearneſs of death and judgment.

29. In the night, ſome bright coruſcations, with an unuſual joy and alacrity, particularly from that text, 1 John v. "He that is begotten of God keepeth himſelf, and that wicked one toucheth him not:" and Rom. xvi. 20. "The God of peace ſhall bruiſe Satan under your feet ſhortly."

A ſuggeſtion of ſpiritual pride ſucceeded, but in the light it was ſeen and diſpelled.

FIRST MONTH 1768.

We are menaced with perſecution for tythes: but I ſaw good ariſing out of this evil. 1. It has brought the ſheep together, who elſe would be ſcattered, and become aliens to one another, but are now united in the common cauſe. 2. It revives the ancient teſtimony againſt this antichriſtian yoke. 3. It manifeſts the ſincere from the hypocrites.

28. Sweet content and thankfulneſs with regard to my modicum of this world's goods, even beyond many thouſands: but, O for the heavenly treaſure, the gifts of the ſpirit, and particularly that of love, the ſum total of law and goſpel!

SECOND MONTH 1768.

3. Held our monthly conference: we are not yet perfect, but continue our warfare, and a holy

a holy contempt of the world ſeems to grow upon us.

It is remarked, that the women uſually exceed the men in the fervour of their devotion: hence it is concluded, that the low ſtate of the firſt among us is a token of a general decay.

5. See Iſa. iii. 3. 5. the ſtate of the Jewiſh church analogous to ours.

6. God is weaning me from this world by many bitter occurrences, from aſſemblies, by reaſon of my dulneſs of hearing, from the love of much ſociety, from the follies, vices, and unbelief, almoſt every where conſpicuous: ſurely then there muſt be a better country, to which, O Lord, tranſlate in thy good time!

9. In ſilence, a lively ſenſe of the high privilege of being a real member of the true church, even of a ſociety called out of, and preſerved from the evils and corruptions of the world.

At meeting, a miſerably poor attendance on the ſide of the matrons: a little rain extinguiſhes their fire.

13. Beware of Jeſhurun's fate, recorded Deut. xxxi. 20. To eat and to drink to live is the point.

14. An epiſtle, repreſenting our truly mournful ſtate, and a ſpurious miniſtry: God is my refuge.

One comfort is, the ſhortneſs of the time that I have to be a witneſs of theſe doleful ſcenes; but indeed, no ſtate was ever more

dolorous than that of the true church, as deſcribed both in the Old and New Teſtament.

Laſt week grace, in ſome good degree, triumphed over nature, in a devotion of time and treaſure to the promotion of Chriſtian fellowſhip.

20. Impends the youth's meeting: a doubt ſtarted at the men's meeting about the continuance of it. Are we not aſleep? Do not the miniſters repeatedly breathe forth and publiſh their deſires for the good of the youth? And what are the elders doing or thinking of? Verily, the harveſt is great, and the vineyard wants not only waterers, but diggers and pruners.

23. A ſilent meeting, and an humbling one, from a review of my native ferocity being not yet wholly ſubdued on a late occaſion.

24. Grace triumphed over nature in the holy preference given to ſpirituals.

25. A ſilent meeting, yet profitable: Chriſt Jeſus alone the miniſter.

29. A ſong in the night.

THIRD MONTH 1768.

2. Verily, watching and praying are the grand duties of the day, particularly with a view to the impending temptation of earth (which, through the grace of God, hath been brought

brought down) getting up again above heaven, the natural ſtudies above the ſpiritual: Lord, reſcue my ſoul as a bird from this ſnare: a ſenſe of my weakneſs pierces and humbles me.

3. Held our monthly conference: my brother's vaſtly ſuperior ſpiritual induſtry humbles me: however, my engagements in nature for the good of the bodies of men cannot be diſpenſed with, and ſo I muſt be content to move in a lower ſphere.

It was a good day alſo in temporals, at our philoſophico-medical ſociety, ſeveral uſeful communications being made for the good of mankind, and this unexpectedly, even after a like deſertion threatened, as in ſome of our church-meetings.

4. Purge, good Lord, yet more, that I may bring forth more fruit, and particularly in the duties of an elder.

Review and ſtrengthen the former illuminations on this head: and ſee 1 Tim. iii. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. and 2 Tim. iv. 2. and 1 Theſſ. v. 14.

5. Lord, preſerve in moderation, was the cry of yeſterday and this day.

I am like a bankrupt, paying off in compounding for my old arrear due to the Lord and the church.

7. Brittle on a croſs call.

8. At a ſilent meeting—A weaning from this world, and a clear viſion of our ſtate, like that of old Iſrael, Joſh. xxiv. 31. and Judges ii. 10.

13. Verily, the gate is ſtraight, and the way narrow, thus: on the one hand, a ſtruggle to mount upwards on the wings of faith and love, even towards heaven, the wiſhed-for port, eſpecially as my voyage undoubtedly is very near finiſhing: on the other hand, not to neglect the duty to my neighbour, and his natural and civil good and welfare, in the proſecution of certain works directed to this end, though an end infinitely ſhort of the good of their ſouls and mine.

15. O my ſoul, my yet hypocritical ſoul! How canſt thou look back without compunction upon thy religious publications, in which thou haſt been 'more in words than in life?' For, in the Lord's preſence (barring the voice of the accuſer) I do not every day come up to the ſtandard I have recommended: I bow therefore before him, and implore his mercy and help on this account, even unto me a ſinner. Where is pride now? To the Devil let it go.

Again, here I participate of the ſin of the times, even of the formaliſts around me, who, as George Fox teſtified, have the ſaints words, but not the ſaints life; yet not wholly deſtitute, though very poor.

25. A church conference: God ſtrengthened me to be a burden-bearer.

26. Rejoiced, that Jeruſalem was preferred to my temporals.

27. A faithful miniſtry is ſtill preſerved, who preach not themſelves, but the Lord Jeſus,

Jeſus, and no daubers, but ſuch who ſhew unto Jacob his ſins. O may we Levites ſecond their concern!

28. Too frappiſh on a croſs call.

31. More ſobriety, even more ſtrictneſs in drinking, not for meer pleaſure, but for health and ſtrength: alſo more meekneſs is wanting, and more heavenly mindedneſs, and more ſpiritual induſtry in meditation, reading, and the proper works of an elder, in viſiting the many objects of church-dealing in this populous city.

Fourth Month 1768.

1. Thy account of the epidemick bodily diſeaſes is finiſhed; look up higher now, and view the mental diſeaſes of the people, and conſider their cauſe and cure. Now here is, 1. Unbelief the ſource of all, the word preached having not been mixed with faith: and, 2. Truſting in man, and particularly relying on an outward miniſtry, whilſt the gift within, which ſhould be as a well ſpringing up to eternal life, is neglected. Bleſſed be the Lord, who hath taught ſome of us better things.

4. I ſcarce ever ſaw myſelf ſo weak as this day: a certain quickneſs to anger appears, inſtead of a ſlowneſs thereto, which ſhould obtain in God's children, ſince they ought to be like him

him. Henceforward, good Lord, ſtrengthen and ſweeten, for thou canſt do it.

6. Grace triumphed over nature to day, bleſſed be the Lord.

8. A viſit to a ſtray ſheep.

13. Anecdote. A. B. during a ſeries of years, travelled ten miles to meeting every meeting day, and moreover, was one of the earlieſt comers.

17. On reading of the taſk-maſters of Egypt in Exodus; an illumination.

Verily, the world alſo is a taſk-maſter, and perhaps a more cruel one than thoſe in Egypt: for, obſerve, whereas the three capital purſuits of the ſons of Adam are, honours, profits, or pleaſures; as to the firſt, behold, the heavy drudgery impoſed on thoſe that ſeek the honour of a place in the parliament, what truckling and cringing, and expences to a vaſt amount! Next, as to the profits, O what drudgery does the worldling undergo, what anxiety, fear, and care, what labour and vigilance! And withal, he is in a great meaſure hindered thereby from a diligent attendance at the houſe of prayer, and from communication with ſpiritual brethren.

And laſtly, as to the devotees to pleaſure, theſe alſo are errant ſlaves, and never ſatisfied.

I ſaid therefore, Lord, deliver from all theſe inſtances of worſe than Egyptian bondage, and give me to partake of the liberty vouchſafed to thy ſons!

22. Ten patients, and not a penny.

A ſhort

A ſhort SPIRITUAL CHRONOLOGY.

I was born among a ſet of the more refined profeſſors, and about my eleventh year was tranſplanted to a ſeminary of the like, being a ſchool not only of learning, but of religion: there I received a little of the heavenly fire from ſome of the miniſters, particularly in private meetings, and was attended with a ſecret alluring of the love of God in preference to that of father and mother, a manifeſtation ſuitable to my ſituation in thoſe tender years.

About my thirteenth year, when I was to be removed from that place to another, where there was far leſs religion, God gave a ſenſe of my danger on the approaching change, and an earneſt prayer for preſervation was poured forth.

From the thirteenth to the eighteenth of my age, I was at various mixed ſchools, and among aliens, and lived as without God in the world, intent all the while on my learning.

About the twentieth I was tranſplanted to a family of friends, and here a tender viſitation of divine love took place, in a ſudden irradiation, tending to ſtop me in my career after natural knowledge. Here alſo, ſome inclination to marriage, but over-ruled by a ſecret hand.

About

About the twenty-ſecond I removed to a lodging with, not a nominal, but a real friend in London.

Thence to Holland, in order to finiſh my medical education: here the object was all nature and phyſick, no grace: alſo ſerious thoughts of proper qualification for a livelihood, as I had ſcarce any patrimony.

In my twenty-fifth year commenced my practice, with ſome revival of religious thoughtfulneſs.

1724. I was tranſplanted to Dublin by a ſingular Providence, even among brethren of high profeſſion, and I now made a covenant with my Maker.

I ſaw the formality and hypocriſy of divers of the profeſſion, and was offended; but was preſerved from hurt from hence by an inward call to this purpoſe: 'Look not out, but in.'

Soon after my arrival, I opened a ſcheme for the improvement of the *Materia Medica*, which has, with ſome interruptions, been proſecuted to this preſent time, being the forty-fourth year.

1733. Began my hiſtory of the people called Quakers in Ireland, not for reward, but from zeal, and a cordial love to the exerciſe of Chriſtian diſcipline among them, extended not to a few external particulars only, as dreſs and addreſs, but alſo to the inordinate purſuit of riches, to lukewarmneſs, and to prophaneneſs, and all immorality.

The

The contemplation of this was pleaſant, and carried me through the labour with chearfulneſs.

1737. Publiſhed an Eſſay on Women's Preaching, with a rebuke to falſe prophets, who had long given me offence: ſome cenſure enſued; but God preſerved from extreme meaſures.

From 1740 to 1745, engaged in the Natural Hiſtory of the County of Dublin, and was led a long dance on birds, fiſhes, and foſſils, and in compotations for information, and was greatly hurt in my ſpirituals by this means, preferring nature to grace, and moral righteouſneſs to evangelical.

1751, and ſome time after, God ſtirred up to prefer grace to nature, and gave me the determination and power to execute it, even to publiſh two ſpiritual works, upon principle, previous to a certain natural work long depending. About the year 1751, the Eſſays of the Meſſieurs du Port Royal were bleſſed to me, bringing me to a cloſer view of death and judgment.

About the ſame time God opened my eyes to ſee clearly, that this world is not a paradiſe, but a ſtage of troubles, even to thoſe we call good men.

1754. A ſignal viſitation by a dangerous illneſs, followed by a ſolemn renewed covenant with my Maker.

1757. Pub-

1757. Publiſhed my Hiſtory of Waters, which engaged me in a controverſy for three years.

1760 to 1763. Underwent ſome unrighteous calumnies, which Providence, A.D. 1763, removed.

Thence to 1768, happy ſweet opportunities of digeſting my labours in nature, and of reading the Holy Scriptures, and ſome other ſpiritual experimental writers: and my love to the ſpiritual brotherhood increaſes, and God is enlightening in the duties of an elder in a populous place, where the ſubjects of the exerciſe of that office are numerous, and the office laborious, and frequently under the croſs; ſo that the execution of Chriſtian diſcipline is far leſs pleaſant than the meer contemplation of it.

To proceed:

4th month. 24. A ſhameful neglect of the hour appointed for divine worſhip, not at all like a people animated to ſeek heavenly treaſures, and to promote the communion of ſaints: and ſhall we elders be as dumb dogs on this occaſion? I truſt this event ſhall be ſo far ſanctified to me, that the harms of others ſhall make me to beware, and even to ſteer the contrary courſe with the more zeal.

26. Miracles are not yet ceaſed; for ſurely the ſtill continued ſtretching forth of the arms of divine love to a rebellious people (in which the youth were particularly remembered, and

a hope

a hope expreſſed of ſome of them becoming labourers in the vineyard) is no leſs.

27. A viſit to a weak member, and another to a drunken one, in concert.

29. God gave a wholeſome fear with regard to the doſe of my drink previous to our ſelect meeting, where ſeveral deficiencies appeared. Diſcharged my conſcience.

FIFTH MONTH 1768.

1. Four foreign female miniſters attended, and to very good purpoſe.

The natural volubility of that ſex, beyond all compariſon ſuperior in effect to what is delivered by ſome of us dull reaſoners, renders them far better ſpeakers, and fitter inſtruments for a ſuperior power to animate and direct: a myſtery of grace diſcovered, and amply diſplayed to publick view in our ſociety alone.

8. Received a pamphlet from America, condemning the ſlave-trade, written by a ſheep not of our fold.

Behold this myſtery of iniquity: the Africans go to war with the ſole intent of getting the negroes, in order to ſell them; and the Chriſtians purchaſe them, to the great ſcandal of their profeſſion.

9. Held our monthly conference: my brother teſtifies, that the ſting of death is taken

from him; but yet he ſtill finds ſome defect, and room for further ſpiritual improvement.

11. Opens the day of my eſpouſals: went to the memorable place where I made my vow, ſenſible of the abundant bleſſings with which I have been even loaded, and likewiſe of my haſtening diſſolution, and of the neceſſity of a preparation for it.

12. A pleaſant day in a ſenſible improvement in naturals: God is ſweetening my old age, and giving to enjoy and improve the labours of my youth.

16. Our medical ſociety is of uſe to me, who otherwiſe would be an alien to divers modern improvements. Lord, preſerve, and keep heaven and grace uppermoſt with me, and earth and nature under!

17. Church-buſineſs impends, but the hands to do it are otherwiſe employed, viz. In the concerns of meer fleſh and blood. Methought I felt a little of the heavenly fire animating me to duty amidſt theſe diſcouragements, remembering that Chriſt our Captain ſaid, "It was his meat and drink to do his Father's will."

18. Every day gives a diſtaſte of the world, and indeed of my fellow-profeſſors: Lord, preſerve from ſpiritual pride: for I alſo am a pardoned ſinner, a ſtanding monument of thy long-ſuffering, without which I ſhould long ago have periſhed in my idolatry, and been a companion to damned ſpirits.

Two

Two grand important points of doctrine ſeem to be almoſt ſunk in oblivion: the firſt is, that Chriſt's blood was ſhed for the remiſſion of ſins, as he himſelf teſtifies, and that, in a view of faith, it is to be daily fled to for every omiſſion and commiſſion.

The ſecond is, the hell-fire denounced not only to the Devil and his angels, but to wicked men. See the poſitive declaration of Chriſt, Matth. xxiv. 41. 46.

21. A bleſſed ſweet morning in the country, the peace of God attending, I truſt. Soul, awake! and think of Moſes and his troubles, of David and his troubles, and of the travels, perils, and grievous ſufferings of the apoſtle Paul; but, above all, think of Chriſt Jeſus, the Captain of our ſalvation, his troubles from his birth to his death, and then ſink into thy own proper ſituation, even humiliation and ſelf-contempt, upon the compariſon of thy troubles on account of the church: nevertheleſs, lift up thy heart, and truſt in God, who knoweth all things, preſideth over all things, and will bring forth the iſſue to his own glory.

22. A plot againſt the power of darkneſs: every morning ſet up a watch againſt anger, yea, double the guard.

23. An afflicting ſcene: ſeveral elders march off from the diſcipline-meeting before the important buſineſs of the day is done!

SIXTH MONTH 1768.

1. What lack I yet, good Lord?

ANSW. More meekneſs, more patience, and more reſignation to the will of my Maker on every occaſion, ſo as to be able to ſay in the integrity of my heart, "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."

4. Held our monthly conference: my brother would have me to be like him, viz. As it were wholly abſorbed in grace; but I ſay, 'Let not the ſhoemaker go beyond his laſt:' and if in my temporal calling, all is done in the name of the Lord, and the Lord's drawing at the ſame time followed, I am content with my humbler ſtation. It is true, it is better to ſit with Mary at Jeſus's feet; but yet the active life muſt alſo be exerciſed by ſome, and as to diſeaſes, they muſt be attended; but, indeed, a gradual retirement from this buſineſs alſo is now become neceſſary, in order to haſten ſome publications, if the Lord will: but, Lord, ſet bounds to this and every inordinate affection reſpecting the meer body, and raiſe my groveling heart on the wings of faith and love to thoſe things that are of eternal duration!

5. An uncomfortable walk, even on this firſt day of the week, through an ungodly mob; ſpirituous liquors a prelude to hell-fire, inflame them, and our magiſtrates are aſleep: and ſo are our elders, who forſook Jeruſalem's cauſe,

cauſe, in withdrawing from the anſwers to the eſtabliſhed queries.

6. Verily the Lord hath brought me into the narrow way, where there is but little company: Lord, keep me there, and enable me to tread ſtraight ſteps therein, remembering the end thereof, even life everlaſting.

7. A ſad ſcene: the rich, who are beſt able to ſupport the expence of church-journies, withdraw their ſhoulders, and leave the weight on the poor. Doubtleſs, the genuine ſource of this is the love of the world. Marvel not at it; for now, as formerly, "Not many rich, not many noble," &c.

9. A ſong in the night.

10. I will bring my peace-offering, even of thankſgiving, to my Lord, in that for ſome time paſt I feel ſome real acceſſion of courage and ſpiritual ſtrength, particularly in ſome publick exhibitions, and being freer from the uſual attacks of ſpiritual pride on ſuch occaſions than formerly, having prayed for humility, which God was pleaſed, in ſome good degree, to give, to him be the praiſe! And, indeed, when I look back on my weak and infant ſtate, abundant cauſe of humiliation appears.

12. A conſultation with the overſeers, in which, verily, verily (with ſorrow be it ſaid) the burden appears to be too great for our ſhoulders. The harveſt indeed is great, but where, O where, are the labourers?

16. A botaniek journey on principle, with a feaſt, but this laſt had ſomething of a ſting in the tail; the converſation not angelick, but mixed. Such an event attending the moſt laudable human purſuits draws me from the world.

19. View the world in truth's glaſs: a ſcene of infirmities, follies, dangers, ſins, real miſeries thickly ſown, unbelief, ingratitude, ſtupidity as to the ſpiritual ſenſe and all animating views of God's favours in nature, but eſpecially in the grace that comes by Jeſus Chriſt; next diſeaſes of the body, though theſe far leſs general than thoſe of the mind; in the firſt of which I have been immerſed above forty years, but now by a ſweet and higher hand am led to thoſe of the mind: ſo lead, good Lord, and give new courage and ſteadineſs, that I may be gradually looſened from an attention to the firſt, as far as is conſiſtent with my glory; and as I am upon the borders of ſuperannuation, and certain matters are nearly ready for publication, I determined to retrench enquiries after novelties, and gradually to retire from anxiety and fatigue, either in practice or ſtudy.

26. Very heavy, with a moiſt atmoſphere, at the morning meeting.

28. No miniſter at meeting, but Chriſt the Lord.

A clear ſight of the exceeding ſinfulneſs of offering to the Lord the meer refuſe of our time, the caſe of great part of the people among

among whom I dwell. Surely this is not my reſt.

30. At a ſilent meeting: what wonder that the goſpel-rain ſhould be withheld, ſince ſo little fruits of the former rain appear?

SEVENTH MONTH 1768.

3. Amidſt our palpable deſolations, matter of ſome comfort appeared. 1. In the acceſſion of ſtrangers to our fellowſhip in England. 2. In a conviction that, even here, are ſome precious ſouls. 3. That here is a field for labour to be cultivated by elders, as ſuch: Lord, give the goad!

An inward voice of thankſgiving to God for the giſt of his Son, the Lord Chriſt, to us Gentiles, the myſtery hid from ages, adorable, incomprehenſible, unutterable, and unmerited: and if the ſweet ſinger of Iſrael had occaſion to ſay, "Awake, ſackbut, pſaltery, and harp, and praiſe the Lord;" ſo had I, ſo had we, and ſo had every one, whoſe eyes the God of this world had not blinded.

My native fierceneſs ſeemed, in the clear viſion, to be the chief ſin of my boſom, not yet wholly ſubdued: good Lord, and God of love, ſubdue it!

7. Soul, awake! the everlaſting antitypal ſabbath, I truſt, is at hand, the end of all labours, ſufferings, and ſins. See and prepare for it, by letting the earth now enjoy its

ſabbaths,

ſabbaths, even in a gradual relaxation and holy careleſſneſs in all the ſpecious concerns of fleſh and blood.

8. Protracted my veſper beyond the uſual time, by reaſon of a ſweet inſpired ſong of thankſgiving to a gracious and ever adorable Providence.

10. Thy work is not yet done: the war in the members is ſtill felt. Patience hath not yet had its perfect work: O my poverty! Lord, help!

11. In the midſt of various diſcouragements, I was induced, even from obſervation, to believe that our late labour hath not been wholly in vain: yea, on the

15th and 20th. I was a witneſs to ſome effects thereof.

19. A ſilent meeting with a loaded atmoſphere: great heavineſs, and the holy fire almoſt, but not quite, out.

22. I am a wonder of God's mercy and bounty. He is, as it were, renewing my youth, and giving in old age to enjoy and ſweetly apply the labours of my youth, whilſt multitudes of my equals and aſſociates are dropping into eternity, or elſe various ways diſtreſſed. Awake, ſoul, and work; for the eleventh hour is come!

23. In a religious view, ſuffering is my portion: Lord, ſuſtain!

25. A ſweet ſong of thankſgiving.

31. The tenour of the drawing or proper ſteerage this day was, to keep carefully the

holy

holy medium between a criminal remiſſneſs in temporals on the one hand, and an anxiety about them on the other.

EIGHTH MONTH 1768.

3. To the ſolemn query, what hinders thy immediate admiſſion into the bridegroom's chamber? The anſwer was, more of temperance in eating, drinking, anger, and ſtudy, is required.

O my earthly mindedneſs and perpetual proneneſs to the concerns of meer fleſh and blood! Nothing convinces more of the neceſſity of a ſuperior aid, to reſiſt this natural, deeply rooted bias.

Indeed the apoſtle ſays alſo, "In me, that is, in my fleſh, dwelleth no good thing;" but his other ſaying, "The ſpirit helpeth our infirmities," adminiſters comfort, and enjoins to call for its aſſiſtance.

Even the very *memento mori* is ſo far inſufficient to proper effect, that I feel by monthly obſervation and experience, that it requires a ſuperior renewed light and aſſiſtance to put it in practice, together with the practical conſequence, even a comparative contempt of this life, joined to an aſpiration, hope, and deſire of a better.

It is the peculiar bleſſing of my old age, to ſee the world in quite another light than in my youth and manhood, even as it really is, viz.

viz. "A vale of tears:" bleſſed be the Father of lights!

5. Held our monthly conference: my brother abounds in labours, and conſequently in conſolations much more than I: he works harder, and of courſe is fed higher.

6. A viſit to a poor forlorn meeting in the country, cut off, as it were, from the mother church.

It was an humbling time, giving occaſion abundantly for thanks to God, who had not dealt with me according to my former iniquity and forgetfulneſs of him, nor as he hath with theſe poor ſcattered ſheep, but afforded me far ſuperior opportunities and incitements to growing in grace than they have.

Alſo, a grateful ſenſe of the honour heaven beſtowed on us in enabling us thus to viſit, not the rich, who can pay us again, but the poor, who cannot, according to the precept of our Lord.

11. The neceſſity of overſeers, and the united labours of miniſters and elders, as alſo the inſufficiency of the firſt without the laſt, abundantly appeared; and that otherwiſe notorious immoralities and ſcandals muſt eſcape unnoticed, and the holy diſcipline be trodden under foot.

15. A prodigy of goodneſs in theſe dreary times, five foreign miniſters at once.

N. B. The ſenſe of ſeveral of them concurred, that ſtriplings ſhall be raiſed up in the miniſtry. Mark the event.

16. The

16. The publick meeting was ſweetly animated miniſterially: a ſweet ſymphonick goſpel-ſound and invitation to the rebellious, to the weak, and to the young, and a bitter cup handed forth to hypocritical elders.

18. God enabled to devote five days to a church-journey, purſuant to my vow: here the deficiency of elders from the metropolis (a large body) appeared. Reſolved to attend oftner.

24. Bleſs the Lord, O my ſoul, that even in theſe days of declenſion, a faithful miniſtry is ſtill preſerved, exhibiting wholeſome truths appoſite to our ſtate: O may we of the preſbytery co-operate with them, and ſecond their labours!

26. Two late at meeting, although many others were much later: but I will not meaſure myſelf by their ſtandard, nor by any other but the King's ſtandard; according to which I am deficient: Lord, ſtrengthen to come up to it!

NINTH MONTH 1768.

2. I would gladly hope, that Jeruſalem is maintaining the holy preference above temporals.

I feel my weakneſs as much as ever, and, ſtript of ſelf-ſufficiency, cry out, Lord, help!

OBSER-

OBSERVATION.

There was an ancient query to be anſwered by our people in general, 'Do friends avoid incumbrances, hindering their growth in the truth and the ſervice of it?'

Now this is ſlipt, omitted in the queries to the common people, and retained only among thoſe peculiar to miniſters and elders; whereas undoubtedly this matter is of univerſal concern to every ſtation, according to the doctrine and precepts of Chriſt.

8. Too brittle on a group of paupers. Double the guard, join watching to prayer.

15. An humbling review of the precipitancy and errors of my youth, and even riper age, in relation to the ſtate of man in this life, under the ſpecious maxim of, 'Virtue being its own reward; and *vice verſa*.

17. More contempt of the world is ſtill wanting.

Nearer acceſs to my Lord, in begging an increaſe of my love to him, and to my neighbour.

18. The ſeats of the matrons at meeting are deſerted, in contempt both of all remonſtrances, and the favour even of good weather: Lord, what wilt thou do for thy great name?

19. Reſolved to double the watch in point of anger, my eaſily beſetting ſin, after the example

example of the Pſalmiſt, " I will ſet a watch before the door of my lips."

20. A ſpurious appearance at meeting in the falſe viſion.

24. Notorious immoralities pour in upon us, bigamy, theft, and looſe living, though not without cenſure.

30. A ſilent meeting, but profitable.

In the holy ſtruggle grace prevailed over nature.

Jeruſalem ſurely of late hath been preferred, even to my chief joy.

TENTH MONTH 1768.

1. Monthly retreat.

Sixty-nine and $\frac{9}{12}$ years are now paſt: ſoul, awake, and trim thy lamp!

Almoſt all thy contemporaries are gone, and all thy natural purſuits are almoſt finiſhed, and the imperfections of the knowledge thence obtained appear: and in medicine occur poor and miſerable objects, and multitudes of incurables imploring help in vain: next, in the ſpiritual view, the ſtate of the church is diſmal. Remember this awful ſite in the front of the people, and tremble: Lord, fertilize my barrenneſs!

A Prayer.

O God, whoſe ways and providences are myſterious and unſearchable, and thy goodneſs beyond expreſſion, we can indeed ſay from experience, that thou art abundant in goodneſs and truth, ſlow to anger, pardoning iniquity, tranſgreſſion, and ſin.

Days without number have I been carried down the prevailing torrent of unbelief, and in preferring nature to grace, and been overtaken by that ſin which hath eaſily beſet, even quickneſs to anger.

I bleſs thy peculiar bounty ſignally extended to me in thy paternal viſits to me in this my old age, and giving me a clear viſion of this world, as it really is, and an humble hope of a better, and for ſome precious writings, and ſome late miniſterial viſits, tending greatly to edification.

Lord, give true moderation in my natural ſtudies, and let Jeruſalem indeed maintain its juſt and holy preference! Reduce my will to an entire ſubjection to thy holy will on all occaſions!

Give wiſdom to ſteer my courſe aright before the people among whom thou haſt caſt my lot, even to thy glory and our mutual ſpiritual benefit!

Strengthen the young and the poor, and grant, if it be thy will, that they may fill up the vacant ſeats of the elders!

Grant

Grant unto me more fruitfulneſs in the faithful diſcharge of the duties of an elder, and to live every day as if it were my laſt!

2. Held our monthly conference: my brother and I are both carried on in a holy contempt of this world, but he is more weaned from it than I, even ſometimes longing for the impending tranſlation: alſo, he has got the victory over his waſpiſhneſs.

A ſweet grateful ſenſe of divine favour, in thus giving ſome companions in the narrow way, the King's high road to glory.

16. At a ſilent meeting, reviewed my natural labours thus: I cannot ſay that they were quite free from the love of man's honour, though always directed to uſefulneſs to my neighbour; but moreover, the ſin of idolatry was blended with them, even in preferring theſe naturals and temporals to the ſpirituals and eternals, notwithſtanding God had favoured me with divers living examples of ſouls, who ſteered a courſe the reverſe of this, viz. Putting heaven above earth, even from their minority. Surely I muſt dwell in the valley of ſelf-contempt.

A ſong of thankſgiving to a gracious Providence, which hath limited, and is limiting, my purſuits in nature: ſo limit, good Lord, and bring to my remembrance this twelfth hour of my day!

A query; what will be the end of all this ſilence lately attending us before a mixed multitude?

Answ. It is a virtual rebuke to ſome forward ſpirits: nevertheleſs, it ſeems to menace bad events; however, I will truſt in the divine ſuperintendency, which, if it ſee meet to remove the candleſtick from one place, can ſet it up in another, and which we have had the favour of ſeeing accompliſhed.

Sol. A phyſician in high reputation is like a carrion-crow: he thrives on the diſeaſes and impending death of his brother: he appears only in the time of calamity and diſtreſs, and very often, when all dependence on him is like that on a broken reed of Egypt. Bleſſed be the Lord, I am not in this high reputation, and now, on principles I hope never to be ſhaken, retire from leſſer degrees of fame, and thoſe miſerable harbingers thereof, to which nothing but the love of money reconcileth the purſuers of it.

23. Even on this ſolemn day a bias to naturals appeared, but God diſcovered it, and I reſolved to take up the croſs and bear it.

Diſmal, wounding news from England; even the vain profuſion of expence in diamonds, &c. on occaſion of the viſit of the King of Denmark: O were the ladies as covetous of thoſe inward ornaments with which heaven is as ready to adorn them, as it has done many of their ſex, it would be a better world than it is!

28. God gave wiſdom, even to cauſe the Devil's ſtream to turn God's mill, thus: the bad examples of the lukewarm Laodiceans at meeting

meeting ſhall animate me to higher degrees of fervour.

Another viſit from one of our pilgrims, a repeated inſtance of divine goodneſs and long forbearance, adorable, admirable, and incomprehenſible: however, there was an unuſual conflux of people at meeting, for the ſake of this ſtranger; but how few come to ſit at Jeſus's feet in a ſilent meeting, many deſpiſing him in his ſpiritual appearance?

29. My ſnappiſhneſs is not yet ſubdued, but I preſs forward in the ſtruggle, aſpiring after my brother's example.

ELEVENTH MONTH 1768.

1. Opens my monthly retreat.

Sixty-nine and $\frac{10}{12}$ years are now paſt. Saw my inſufficiency for this work of, as it were, dying daily, and the reluctance in nature to this recollection of my impending death and righteous doom, and the neceſſity of imploring ſuperior immediate light and aid for this very purpoſe.

2. Was among my betters at a ſelect meeting.

4. Struggled hard to get to meeting, where, in the eſtimate of truth, I was late, though not in man's eſtimate: reſolved, that I will not go by thy ſtandard, O multitude!

5. Suggeſtions of ſpiritual pride: Devil, take thou them.

9. Agreed to deal with a ranterical ſpirit, and unanimity therein, bleſſed be the Lord!

10. Diſmal apprehenſions about the Britiſh colonies, one great ſource of our riches to be ſtopped up: and what then?

Is it not juſt with the ſupreme Diſpoſer to deprive us of what we abuſed? Are we not grown to a moſt enormous degree of wantonneſs, luxury, and forgetfulneſs of God, and, as ſuch, become the proper objects of divine chaſtiſement?

15. Now we return to ſilence; and, after all, there is great inſtruction in it: for it drives the wiſe in heart home, even to the Word. The words have been too much magnified, followed, and reſted in by multitudes, which, in truth's language, is no better than worſhipping of images; for what more are words than repreſentations of the life?

At the concluſion of the meeting, ſpoke as an elder by way of rebuke to the late comers.

27. Saw in the clear viſion God's juſtice in withdrawing the clouds in ſome meaſure, and permitting breaches in the hedge of a barren vineyard.

29. Lord, purge from hypocriſy, was the cry of this day: for, upon a retroſpection, I have actually been more in words than in life!

TWELFTH

TWELFTH MONTH 1768.

2. At a ſilent meeting—A ſweet ſenſe that temporals do give way to ſpirituals.

4. A new lecture of reading a chapter ſet up, viz. In the evening, according to the ancient precept, "Thou ſhalt ſpeak to thy children of my ſtatutes, when thou lieſt down, as well as when thou riſeſt up."

6. Viſits to two delinquents, in concert, to ſome ſatisfaction.

At meeting—Reſolved to leſſen the doſe of my drink.

9. Two ſtriplings of low degree occupied my place in a certain church-ſervice—I rejoice that ſuch are found.

13. A ſweet view of the beauty of moderation, even in the quiet of mind attending, and the better ſucceſs even of our temporals; but, above all, its looſening from the inordinate attachment to this world.

14. Sweet news of a returning prodigal.

18. We are now upon the brink of excommunicating a notorious delinquent: but O, how much better a work, to have laboured to prevent this great miſchief and ſcandal! But, alas! we are become, in a great meaſure, aliens to the love of God, and one another. The religious viſit, which might be a means of preventing ſuch evils, cannot, of late, be performed without foreign aid. Surely other lovers, even idols, are entertained.

The

The afternoon meeting miſerably attended; but I will not look out, but in, nor to the example of the multitude, but of the few.

Sol. The whole Jewiſh Hiſtory is a grievous ſatire on mankind, but a few ſaved; preſerved all along, however: the mercy and goodneſs of God in calling to the ſinners in Sion is unutterable, unmerited, incomprehenſible, and adorable.

22. Three church viſits, two admonitory, one conſolatory.

25. Being the firſt day of the week.

Quest. What is the end of my giving up theſe four hours to day? Surely, to refreſh my memory in the great truths of the Chriſtian religion, and to get ſtrength to perſevere in the Chriſtian race the reſt of the week, which I truſted, from the ſweet heavenly attraction, I had attained this day.

27. A view of the world, and contempt of it in the clear viſion.

28. A ſong in the night.

30. A bleſſed ſilent meeting; wherein it was clear, that ſtill further advances in the holy race, and a further ſupply of the Chriſtian graces, are wanting, and ſo to God the giver I fly, imploring it from his inexhauſtible treaſury.

31. Some little emotions of ſpiritual pride, but not encouraged.

FIRST MONTH 1769.

3. Late at meeting in God's eſtimate, though not in man's.

At our monthly conference: we love ſolitude, and feel the benefits of it, and unite in a holy contempt of this world.

9. A little too quick to anger.

16. Diſmal ſcenes in the conſequences of bill-forging, brother defrauding brother: ſurely God is chaſtiſing, who formerly ſaid, and ſtill ſaith, "Curſed is man that truſteth in man, and in his heart departeth from the Lord."

20. A ſcheme for an introduction to a diſpenſatory for this country.

22. Exerciſe and trouble on account of the prevailing non-obſervance of the time appointed for divine worſhip.

Thankſgiving to the Lord, for redeeming from the idolatry of 1745, when nature was preferred to grace, but now giving the holy and rightful preference to Jeruſalem.

28. and 30. Lately nine ſilent meetings, and three of them with a foreign miniſter, a document of ſome uſe to me.

31. At a ſilent meeting—Deplored my barrenneſs and ſpiritual idolatry for a ſeries of years: adored my long-ſuffering God, who hath ſpared me, and given ſpace to repent in this my old age, and grace to ſacrifice ſome of the beſt of my time to him in ſelf-denial.

I am

I am a bankrupt in his preſence! I am not able to pay my debt: accept, O God, my little ſacrifice, the dove and the pigeon, in the name of thy beloved Son!

Saw this day the neceſſity of a rigorous, ſtrict regard to the doſe of the drink previous to the meeting of miniſters and elders.

SECOND MONTH 1769.

2. Held our monthly conference: none of us are exempt from temptations, particularly to ſpiritual pride, but God gives to ſee the ſnare.

12. At meeting—A ſweet commemoration of God's ſpecial love and mercy during a ſeries of years paſt, with humiliation under a review of infirmities and ſins.

12. and 18. A diſmal ſight, nine boys robbers, chained and ſent to Newgate: O education! Hoped, that my feeble endeavours for a better education of ſome of them may be accepted.

27. A viſit to the women's meeting, calling for their aſſiſtance in dealing with play-haunters, and admoniſhing them for their lukewarmneſs in religious duties.

THIRD

THIRD MONTH 1769.

6. Accompliſhed my mattin, in four church viſits in company.

10. Two ſpiritual viſits, wherein I ſaw the benefit of Chriſtian fellowſhip, my brother quite outſhining me.

12. At meeting, ſaid to my Lord, I have given the preference to Jeruſalem's cauſe in ſome degree of late, and committed my temporals to thee in ſubordination: Lord, give to perſevere!

15. O my barrenneſs in regard to the youth, at the men's meeting yeſterday, and the danger of their receiving bad impreſſions.

23. Invited eight apothecaries to our botanick excurſions, on principle.

26. Perſevere, for the end of thy race is near; and not only perſevere, but grow, flouriſh, and bring forth fruit in this thy old age: for this is the nature of the trees of righteouſneſs in the ſpiritual plantation.

Viewed our church and our ſtate, and the great ferment in the laſt, and ſaid, The Lord ſeeth all this, and we are puniſhed, having not improved his mercies; but he preſideth over all theſe things, and will conduct all to his own glory in the iſſue.

FOURTH

FOURTH MONTH. 1769.

2. Purſued a late reſolution of reading a portion of ſcripture every morning, if convenient.

7. What hath thy Saviour ſaved thee from? Among other ſins, from anger without cauſe, and from the inordinate purſuit of natural ſcience. Yea, I hope, in ſome degree, from theſe.

9. The leaſt of the phyſicians of the ſoul is far more honourable in the eye of heaven than the greateſt of the body.

11. I have been fertile in naturals beyond many of my fellows, but barren and poor in ſpirituals: my faith little, my love too languid. True, Lord; but adored be thy bounty; thou haſt given ſpace to repent, and improve the ſhort reſidue of my time, in order that I may be more fruitful in old age: even ſo grant, good Lord!

14. A ſweet contemplation of Chriſt in the evening, which thus paſſed away inſenſibly.

16. At the afternoon meeting, mourned for the perverſeneſs of human nature, exemplified this day in ſome ſpurious ſpeakers rejecting all advice: mourned alſo over myſelf, and over Sion, in her preſent deſolations.

17. Meditation on the youth's meeting: this is right, and all of a piece with catechiſing them, and reading the ſcriptures with them; it is a brave ſtruggle amidſt revolting

and

and diſcouraging elders, and ſo far keeping in the narrow way where the few go: I hope, however, God is on our ſide. The foreign miniſters hope well of ſome of the youth: ſhall none ſecond their hope? They are in the midſt of ſnares and dangers, ſurrounded by bad examples of lukewarmneſs and earthly-mindedneſs; but it is no new thing for a gracious Providence to raiſe up good children from bad parents. Here is a large collection of little books, the deliberate productions of many worthy miniſters and elders, who have committed their thoughts to writing, leaving to us theſe monuments of their wiſdom and heavenly mindedneſs; a ſpiritual feaſt indeed prepared, and ſhall there be no elder to invite to the participation of it, not one who looks beyond the grave to the ſucceeding generation? God forbid!

18. I truſt that Jeruſalem hath the preference.

23. Here is abundant room for weeding and pruning in our ſpiritual vineyard.

25. This day was verified the ſaying of the prophet, "I will give children to be their princes," &c. even in a diſagreeable appearance at meeting.

FIFTH MONTH 1769.

2. One heavenly minded man appeared to my obſervation: he hath renounced ſuperfluity in trade for the love of truth upon earth.

3. Suffering, mourning, and labour, were ſeen in the clear viſion to be my lot.

5. A bleſſed meeting indeed! 1. Immediately, in the heavenly attraction continued, and the holy vigilance in ſome degree purſued: and, 2. In the miniſtry, where the lukewarm were hewed, and the fervent Chriſtian encouraged, and one angelick declaration worthy to be recorded, viz. 'The ardency of my deſire for your ſalvation, is as much as it is poſſible to be for my own.' Bleſſed be the Lord for ſuch company!

6. Rejoiced that my little lot of publick labour is caſt among children, and the youth, rather than old ſettled formaliſts, being better ſubjects, and more eaſily ſuſceptible of good impreſſions.

6. Held our monthly conference: we hope we are on the high road to heaven.

7. At meeting, under a precious lively miniſtry, ſaw myſelf in the valley, even to have been ſtrenuous in nature, but ſlack in grace. It is, however, a great favour to be thus placed among my betters, even living incentives to ſuperior heights of purity and love.

10. Took

10. Took a ſolemn walk to the place of my ſpiritual eſpouſals, now about fifteen years ago: a long period truly of God's abundant bounty to me in a ſeries of events, calling for great thankfulneſs and humiliation.

12. From the earthly treaſure aſpire to the heavenly, even an improvement in every gift of the ſpirit; ſo help, Lord!

16. O my ſoul, now beware of the poiſon annexed to worldly riches and honours! Lord, preſerve, and lead ſweetly on to the purſuit of the ſpiritual riches, and of the honour that cometh from thee only!

17. A certain feaſt left a ſting in the tail, for want of more of the holy fear in the cup. I will fly from the temptation: nor again, is this the feaſt which Jeſus recommended, viz. To feaſt them that cannot feaſt thee.

I ſee in the clear viſion, that I am one of the meaneſt of the ſtones in the heavenly building: if no other than a ſtepping ſtone, however, may it be granted, that I may have a place among them!

19. Reſolved to keep in the valley: God hath placed me among divers burning and ſhining lights in ſpirituals, to whom I am ſcarce worthy to hold a candle: I will, however, praiſe the Lord for this my ſituation.

20. A little dogged and impatient on a ſmall croſs event, and ſinfully ſo: whither ſhall I fly, but to the great advocate?

21. At meeting in ſilence: thou knoweſt what will ſweeten acids in the body; but wo

unto thee if thou doſt not witneſs the ſpiritual ſweetening: and again, God hath brought thee on to a great length in a certain natural undertaking; but, O the ſlowneſs of thy progreſs in the ſpiritual work! How ſmall the proportion of thy progreſs in this to thy progreſs in that!

29. The botanick walk: O the perverſeneſs, the indolence, the ignorance, and the ſin of the apothecaries!

30. A ſilent meeting, with a dejection of ſpirits; but luminous afterwards.

31. O what a pigmy am I, in compariſon of a certain ſaint, whoſe writing I now read!

Sixth Month 1769.

1. Held our monthly conference: the objects of his (my brother's) miniſtrations, are the poor and hungry; mine rather the rich, full, and lukewarm: here his work is much eaſier than mine: again, he deals with adults, I with children: here my work is eaſier than his.

3. A ſecret whiſper yeſterday, tending to ſweeten and humble, viz. Sink down into a deep, lively, grateful ſenſe of God's unutterable, and almoſt unparalleled and unmerited bounty to thee from the beginning of thy life to this moment, even in many moſt gracious Providences favouring a progreſs heavenwards: let the voice of murmur be no longer heard

in

in thy habitation: thou who haſt received ſo much good, how dareſt thou to murmur at ſmall evils?

4. A levee of paupers is more honourable than a levee of the rich.

6. At meeting, during the ſilence, a grateful ſweet ſenſe of God's goodneſs to me. Some fruit of a late ſpiritual conference appeared. The heavenly attraction to higher degrees of love, and profounder degrees of fear, was witneſſed.

11. Not one miniſter at meeting, but the Lord Jeſus, whoſe ſpiritual appearance is deſpiſed, even as his bodily in the fleſh was.

13. The myſteries of grace are deeper, and infinitely more important than thoſe of nature. God's ways and works in the church were and are ways of wonder, of wiſdom unſearchable, and goodneſs unutterable.

16. A ſilent meeting, but luminous: a thin congregation: the people are not convinced of the profit of the inward teaching: they love the ſong, but will not act according to the tenour of it, as in Ezekiel's days.

18. At a ſilent meeting: Lord, purge from hypocriſy! They (the preachers) have ſpoken, but I have written: may my pen keep me in awe!

Reſolved, not to be diſcouraged at the fewneſs of the people, who are in heart devoted to truth's cauſe, remembering what the Lord ſaith concerning the narrow way.

22. Lord, preſerve from outward riches and honours, and from the ſnares thereof!

25. The eleventh ſilent meeting. Viewed the world in its eccleſiaſtical, political, and medical ſtate, and was led into a righteous contempt thereof, according to the apoſtle, "Love not the world," and to an aſpiration for deliverance from its corruptions.

26. A bright illumination on the ſecond great law, "Thou ſhalt love thy neighbour as thyſelf. Now, Lord, empty me of all inordinate ſelf-love, becauſe then, and not until then, I ſhall fulfil this precept, this golden precept with which my ſoul is raviſhed.

Look about thee: in nature, love abounds, not only among mankind, but even in the brute creation, manifeſted particularly in a tender care of their young; but this is no more than the work of God in nature, for the conſervation of their ſpecies; but grace riſes infinitely higher, even in love to ſouls; and an evident diſplay hereof appears in faithful miniſters publickly expoſed to thy view, through the bounty of God, and bleſſed incentives to higher degrees of purity and love in me: and ſurely nothing hinders my advancement in this ſtate, but an inordinate ſelf-love: Lord, then, root this out, that the heavenly plant may take root, ſpring up, bloſſom, and bring forth fruit in due ſeaſon!

Took a review of my long aſſiduous labours in nature; but all theſe center in the body, and are as much ſhort in dignity of the labours of

of the miniſters of the everlaſting goſpel, as earth is of heaven: however, if I can be either a ſtepping-ſtone in the heavenly building, or a whetſtone in the carrying it on, I ſhall deem it an honour.

27. Sick, and ſinfully frappiſh.

28. From riches, worldly honours, and the ſnares thereof, and of the enchanting ſmiles of an ungodly world, good Lord, deliver, and give to ſeek the ſpiritual riches, and the honour which cometh from thee alone!

SEVENTH MONTH 1767.

3. The convincement in England, here and there of late, is a miracle of grace, and encouraging amidſt all our dull proſpects.

4. At a ſilent meeting, thankful for the greater largeſs of heaven, in now giving opportunity of reducing ſpeculation to practice, even in the proſecution of the religious viſit to families. Surely, Jeruſalem is in ſome good degree preferred.

5. I am not without ſin, but the warfare is maintained.

20. A ſilent meeting: no miniſter, but Chriſt himſelf, and even he rejected now as of old.

23. Our ſtate is clearly deſcribed, Iſai. iii.

At

At a ſilent meeting, a ſweet ſenſe of the glory of the goſpel-day, and of our ſituation in thus ſitting with Mary at Jeſus's feet.

Conſcious that the Lord hath limited me in ſome degree in ſpeaking, eating, and drinking; and yet I ſaw there was room to ſay, Lord, increaſe my little ſtore of meekneſs and temperance!

24. A clear viſion of the man with the one talent, even as applicable to ſuch as make excuſes with reſpect to our church-ſervices.

27. Paid a religious viſit with two brethren, one of them better than myſelf.

One of a doubtful character, having lately made an oblique attack upon our diſcipline, methought I ſaw a ſtorm ariſing; and I laboured (I hope not without divine direction) to catch him by a pious guile, even by obliquely inciting him to join us more cloſely, which was effected: Lord, proſper!

28. Proclaimed a faſt this day until three in the afternoon, in order to ſeek the Lord, on account of the deſolations both in church and ſtate: and the 17th of Iſaiah fell to my lot, exhibiting an analogy between thoſe and the preſent times: and, O may I be found among the two or three berries left, upon the ſhaking of the olive-tree!

The ſource of our outward riches is beginning to be drained, even that from America: but have we not abuſed proſperity? and is it not fit that we ſhould be chaſtiſed?

As

As to me, I bleſs God for my littleneſs, and even my nearneſs to the grave miniſters ſome ſort of conſolation, in the proſpect of a removal from the evils to come.

A Prayer.

O Lord, we are vile in thy preſence, and utterly unworthy of the favours with which thou haſt loaded us.

We are poor, and ſome of the beſt of us not yet arrived to the ſpirit of our anceſtors, though panting after it.

We have abuſed proſperity, waxed fat and kicked, as Jeſhurun.

An evil heart of unbelief, the ſource of all calamities, hath entered.

Lukewarmneſs hath overſpread us like a leproſy, and careleſſneſs in religious duties as a deep ſleep.

Thou haſt removed many of the clouds, even moſt of them, from us, and we have not turned to thee, who filleſt the clouds.

Such as ſhould be our fathers and inſtructors are themſelves children.

Not a few to whom thou haſt given one talent are burying it in the earth.

They are blind, and ſee not the beauty of the truth, but are dazzled by the glory and friendſhip of ſpiritual Egypt.

They deſpiſe the covenant of their fathers.

Lord,

Lord, look down upon us, and help us; and, if it be thy holy will, convert them, or visit the young and the poor for thy own name and glory's sake.

Increase the number of labourers!

30. Two religious visits, in which my brother more deeply spiritual than I.

31. In the present distressed state of our Sion, the Lord of heaven and earth is my refuge and hiding-place.

EIGHTH MONTH 1769.

1. Provoked by my servant, but a sweet power diverted the storm to a song of praise.

3. Lord, help us in the visit impending! Cause the axe to be laid to the root of the prevailing lukewarmness, the criminal quietism under imperfection and sin, the insensibility of our real state, and the evil heart of unbelief!

4. Some fruits of our late labours seem to appear.

6. Our worship is miserably interrupted in our publick meetings, which are far less adapted for recollection than the closet: I saw lately in the clear vision, that I must not look 'who is here, and who is there,' to which the late comers are a temptation, but that I must look singly to Jesus, and I saw many of these gazers

gazers near me, who are greatly interrupted by this means. God mend them and me!

6. My brother, in the courſe of the viſit, was brought forward ſweetly in the exerciſe of this chimney-corner devotion: bleſſed be the Lord, that I am not wholly left alone in this work.

8. I truſt that the holy principle grows ſtronger, becauſe in theſe works the left hand doth not ſo much know what the right hand doth, as formerly: leſs ſelf-applauſe, but was led up higher, even rather to pray for a bleſſing on my labours.

9. Temporals gave way to ſpirituals, even in chamber-preaching, as well as moral admonition, the neceſſity of which abundantly appears.

11. The ſweet impreſſion of ſuperabundant favours conferred on me weighed me down to a ſubmiſſion to any croſs event.

12. Sol. The Lord hath aſſuredly a ſeed here, and a precious one, though thinly ſown, who, I truſt, will advance, and ſucceed us who are ready for the ſickle: Lord, proſper them!

15. Some viſible effects of our late viſits ſeemed to appear.

O the glory of our miniſtry, not preaching themſelves, but Chriſt, and driving all to him as the light of the world, and ſearcher of hearts!

16. The outcry againſt the love of the world is ſtill maintained.

17. In

17. In a ſpiritual viſit our hearts were united in the holy common cauſe; and I bleſſed God for favouring me with the company of my betters.

19. God preſerved in an hour of temptation.

22. Jeruſalem took the lead this day, bleſſed be the Lord!

N. B. Our foreign brethren and ſiſters joining us in the viſit, are always acceptable: and yet one diſadvantage attends, as it in ſome meaſure interrupts the freedom of our communications, and tends to ſuppreſs ſome motions in the way of admonitions which might be made, were we alone.

28. Admoniſhed one for his too long prayer, which was well received.

30. One thing wanted in our viſit ſeems to have been, a juſt repreſentation of our ſtate by nature in the firſt Adam, becauſe, unleſs our miſery in this be felt, no Redeemer will be ſought for.

3. Baxter's Call to the Unconverted underwent thirty-eight editions, an evidence of a real ſpiritual taſte among the people, as is alſo the republication of Kempis and Bunyan. Wherefore, O ye miniſters, go on to ſow your ſeed alſo, and leave the crop to the Lord of the harveſt.

It is an honour to me to be a ſervant of the ſervants of the Lord.

6. Proceeded in the viſit in the righteous preference of grace to nature, truſting the

Lord

Lord with this laſt, who hath hitherto been as my Ebenezer.

8. The divine appointment of elders is confirmed from Iſaiah: "I will ſet watchmen on thy walls, O Jeruſalem, who ſhall not ceaſe crying all the night, and all the day."

Of what?

Answ. Of the dangers impending.

10. Two ſilent meetings, and luminous, thus: Lord, thou haſt reſtrained from the inordinate purſuit of nature: ſo reſtrain and preſerve; but I want more love and ſweetneſs on croſs calls: God of love, give love!

A family viſit ſucceeded, in which my brother excelled.

13. In caſe of croſſneſs carried on to overt expreſſion, pardon ought to be aſked of the offended, be he ever ſo mean.

15. Truth triumphed in the croſs to day, in two inſtances.

21. Good Lord, thou haſt honoured me greatly, in enabling me to ſtand in the gap, and join the faithful little remnant: Lord, give a ſuitable demeanour otherwiſe!

22. "Learn of me, I am meek and low," was applied to me, who was too brittle to day upon occaſion.

24. ——— from Briſtol deceived me greatly, by an appearance of great innocence and weakneſs, but proved a wolf in a ſheep's ſkin.

In a ſilent meeting, a ſummary view of the various ſtates of the church in the holy record,

even from Geneſis to the end of the Revelations, even of various conflicts and revolutions, until the glorious time of the kingdoms of this world becoming the kingdoms of Chriſt; and hence an encouragement under our preſent mournful ſtate.

26. At our men's meeting, O my barrenneſs!

TENTH MONTH 1769.

2. Hungry, fatigued, and then brittle on a trivial occaſion.

4. After having been almoſt left alone, at length God gave a help-meet at the youth's meeting: may we perſevere in being a help and comfort to each other!

8. Two ſilent meetings, the firſt dull, the ſecond ended with thankſgiving to the Lord, for bringing my feet into the narrow way, and giving ſome ſelect companions there.

10. A diſmal town: the ſons of Belial wax worſe and worſe: our thieves are armed with knives, and our lamps are deſtroyed through wantonneſs.

24. At a ſilent meeting, a ſacrifice of praiſe to God for opening ſprings in the deſert, in bringing forth into action the latent gifts of certain brethren, help-meets in the viſit.

27. A viſible proof of our late labours having not been ineffectual.

29. Lord,

29. Lord, hitherto I have truſted in thee, in giving the righteous preference to Jeruſalem, and have not been confounded nor hurt: ſo Lord, uphold and maintain this truſt!

31. The watch word was, "Behold the bridegroom cometh: go forth to meet him."

ELEVENTH MONTH 1769.

2. Thou muſt not only pray, but watch: ſo the Pſalmiſt, "I will ſet a watch before the door of my lips."

Opened my monthly retreat.

Seventy $\frac{10}{11}$ years are now paſt. O my inſufficiency to die daily, particularly on this ſolemn day!

7. The watch-word was, "Love not the world;" and this was at leaſt a ſecond time that even our national ſynod, which ought to be compoſed of a conſiderable number of the excellent of the earth, were treated as carnal men and worldlings, not to ſay reprobates.

9. Spent near four hours in the religious viſit: ſo Jeruſalem predominates.

10. The meeting was ſcarce completely gathered, until an hour and half after the hour appointed. Surely ſuch have very little of the holy fire about them: God quickened my reſolution of an early attendance on this occaſion.

12. Bleſſed be the Lord, who hath enabled me to do the office of a whetſtone.

At this national meeting the miniſtry was to a conſiderable degree again ſhut up. Are we not yet enough weaned from our dependance on man?

22. Some comfort at meeting from the view of ſeveral preſent, whom I believed to be on the road to the heavenly city, and earneſtly deſired their proſperity.

27. Our publick worſhip is interrupted by late comers, clapping of doors, and ſtamping; ſo that to have two hours retirement one muſt ſeek another place: for we have not a fair opportunity for above one, and the levity of divers is ſuch, as to complain even of the difficulty, of waiting and watching one hour.

30. Upon cool reflection, nothing can be more apparent than the real importance and uſefulneſs of our family-viſits, in reference to the religious and moral conduct of the people.

TWELFTH MONTH 1769.

2. Held our monthly conference: my brother ſacrificeth his health to the goſpel; I nurſe the fabrick, in order for its preſervation.

6. Examining myſelf on each of the cardinal virtues, and fruits of the ſpirit enumerated by the apoſtle, I find myſelf to be generally poor: Lord, give greater portions of each!

9. A week of profit in naturals, but of poverty in ſpirituals.

10. In the clear viſion, this is the grand point, to keep Jeruſalem uppermoſt. Amen.

11. A religious viſit egregiouſly wanted, a brother in danger of being utterly loſt.

17. Made ſome compliment of my health to a Chriſtian brother in the courſe of the viſit.

19. Quitted certain conſultations on the quarterly review of diſeaſes, on night approaching.

22. A ſoft admonition to a brother.

24. A ſilent meeting, but profitable, in an humbling ſenſe of my coming late, in God's eſtimate, though not in man's, from want of vigilance.

A ſweet hope at the concluſion in God's Providence, and even of an aſſiſting and ſanctifying power, nature giving way to grace, bleſſed be the Lord!

25. Amidſt all the abuſes of the obſervation of this day, one good ariſes, viz. A proof that ſuch a perſon as Chriſt Jeſus was born, and when.

26. Opens my ſeventy-ſecond year: may it be a year of being perfected in love!

Deplored the ſtate of the people, in not believing and waiting on Chriſt their teacher, but rather depending on man, as is evident by their conduct, in deſerting our ſilent meetings, but flocking to ſtrangers of eminence:

methought we muſt be puniſhed by a yet further deſertion.

27. Attended the youth's meeting, and diſcharged my conſcience in weakneſs, and had the comfort of ſome of low degree joining in ſpirit. Truly the harveſt is great, but the labourers few: Lord, increaſe their number!

29. At a ſilent meeting meditations tending to a growth, on Chriſt as the vine, and us as the branches, and on the high privilege of being members of the church militant, and partakers of the divine nature, having eſcaped the corruptions that are in the world through luſt.

31. Applied the natural ſweetening of acids to ſpirituals, even to the ſweetening of the ſourneſs of my temper.

First Month 1770.

1. Lord, wean from this deceitful, bewitching world, this ſcene of weakneſſes, temptations, troubles, and ſins!

2. Nature gave way to grace, the church engroſſing a good deal of my time.

At a ſilent meeting: farewel ſtudies and inveſtigations! Farewel plants, minerals, and animals; and farewel the diſeaſes and miſeries of mankind!

4. Held our monthly conference: we are not exempt from juſt cauſes of humiliation.

My

My brother proceeds with unremitting zeal, and I follow him at a diſtance.

9. At a ſilent meeting: ſoul, awake! thou haſt read, haſt ſpoken, and (what is more) haſt written in favour of the holy cauſe; look now cloſely to thy own conduct.

In the clear viſion: I am too crabbed at home: Lord, ſweeten!

14. At a ſilent meeting: divers ſweet and edifying contemplations: among the reſt, what need have I of the honours or profits of the world? Truly, little or none at all: the time is ſhort.

16. Attended a feaſt, not at all to ſatiſfaction.

19. Late at meeting, not in man's, but in God's eſtimation: more vigilance is wanting.

20. Here is the grand point in view: to tread ſtraight ſteps in the narrow way, and ever to give Jeruſalem the holy and righteous preference to every other concern.

23. At a ſilent meeting: a great deficiency appears in theſe meetings: they come late, and ſo are long a gathering, which draws others out to look, 'Who is here, and who there.'

SECOND MONTH 1770.

2. The meeting was ſweetly animated in an heavenly attraction to more vigilance, more croſs-bearing, and more temperance.

4. Broke through certain obſtacles, and got to meeting, where living in God's fear, in order to die in his favour, was ſweetly impreſſed.

6. Purſued the ſchool lecture.

9. Spiritual reading and writing purſued in the croſs.

Bleſſed God for opportunities of helping the diſtreſſed ſick.

11. The infirmities of age come on, particularly an almoſt perpetual catarrh.

12. Brittle on an unſeaſonable vexatious call.

13. A miſerable ſcene: three paupers in one bed, and a ſmall room.

14. Further detection of the curſed trade of bill-broking among the profeſſors of truth: God is puniſhing them, in bringing on them the fruit of their own way, even poverty and diſtreſs.

18. A ſpurious pretender to the miniſtry rebuked in concert.

23. A ſilent meeting, but the holy fire did not go out.

24. To be ready for the bridegroom is the point.

THIRD

THIRD MONTH 1770.

1. Held our monthly conference: the ſearcher of hearts is come, ſhewing in one of us ſome mixture of impurity, even in adminiſtering reproof; and vain thoughts are our trouble, as they formerly were of the Pſalmiſt; again, we yet want more meekneſs.

2. A ſilent meeting, but luminous.

18. A ſweet ſelf-enjoyment, in digeſting the labours of my youth.

23. In a late church-expedition, a great deficiency, not one elder to join the young men.

30. A remarkable chearfulneſs after yeſterday's partial faſt.

At a ſilent meeting, a clear illumination on, "How hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom," even becauſe riches are ſtrong incentives to evil with regard to the three capital idols, the vain honours, profits, and pleaſures of the world.

FOURTH MONTH 1770.

4. Abridged a little of the daily doſe of my drink.

5. Held our monthly conference: the vaſtly ſuperior ſpiritual induſtry of my brother humbles me: he has the comfort of having begotten a ſpiritual ſon.

We

We daily experience the ſweetneſs of ſolitude, company rather diſſipating, often hurting.

6. A bleſſed ſweet ſilent meeting, in which the ſaying of the Pſalmiſt was verified, "O how I love thy law, it is better to me than thouſands of gold and ſilver!" And the beauty of viſiting the fatherleſs and the widow was ſeen in the clear viſion.

9. A great change is come, and coming, viz. Inſtead of fierceneſs, meekneſs; inſtead of the ſpirit of drunkenneſs, gluttony, and an inordinate attachment to books, a reſtraint on all theſe appetites; and inſtead of earthly mindedneſs, a ſweet hope of heaven.

10. A feaſt, but with a ſting in the tail, as uſual.

Job himſelf wanted repentance, when he came to the clear viſion. See ch. xlii. 5, 6.

Late at meeting, from ſome degree of an inordinate attachment to natural ſtudies.

16. A botanick walk, the neceſſity of which abundantly appeared from the profound ignorance reigning among thoſe concerned.

22. Was held the twenty-ſecond ſilent meeting in Dublin, except one.

24. At men's meeting diſcharged my conſcience againſt bill-broking, and ſeveral ſpiritual viſits.

27. At a ſilent meeting, an acquieſcence in God, as the ſupreme controuler of all events, even in this our low ſtate.

29. Hear

29. Hear the voice of God to thee in the old men dropping into eternity, with the N. E. winds.

Fifth Month 1770.

2. In nature thou haſt been fruitful, but barren in grace, during a long ſeries of years: the leaſt babe of Chriſt, who hath been chaſte in its love from the beginning, is greatly to be preferred to thee.

7. To ſtand in the gap faithful, is the grand point, and indeed a fearful one: Lord, help, and raiſe up more labourers!

8. The doſe of the drink previous to the publick meeting was ſomewhat too large, occaſioning heavineſs.

10. Two watch-words. 1. The midnight cry is at hand. 2. Live in the fear, and thou ſhalt die in the favour; yet not of debt, but of grace.

11. At meeting, ready to thank God that I was not in hell.

12. Celebrated this anniverſary of my ſpiritual eſpouſals: ſaw that I am in arrear in reſpect to foreign ſervices, though in the main, and at home, I truſt, I am coming forward, and in ſome meaſure taking up the croſs, and giving grace the preference to nature.

13. Heavy and even ſleepy at meeting, with a gloomy view of our church-ſtate; but

the ſucceeding meeting was animated miniſterially.

16. A ſong in the night.

17. To prevent the ſallies of anger, 'watch' is the word, even a previous watch, as well as prayer to be ſet up.

Act of thankſgiving to my God.

1. For thy innumerable favours and preſervations from my youth.

2. For my civil and religious education beyond that of my brethren.

3. For inſpiring with the vow I made at my firſt ſetting out in the world, though far from being kept entirely inviolate.

4. For tranſplanting me to a place of ſaints, and for a correſpondence with the excellent of the earth.

5. For thy long forbearance towards me in my ſpiritual idolatry, in preferring nature to grace.

6. For my health and long life, and preſent retirement, favouring my enjoyment of and digeſting the labours of my youth.

7. For my littleneſs (the reverſe of worldly grandeur) not the leaſt of thy favours, Lord!

8. For my profeſſion, enabling me to practiſe Chriſtian duties among the ſick.

9. For having enabled and prompted to prefer grace to nature in certain publications, and for a ſpiritual brief work lately finiſhed and printed: Lord, bleſs it!

10. For

10. For my ſpiritual eſpouſals on my ſickneſs, in renewing my covenant.

11. For the bleſſed opportunity of reading the ſcriptures in an improved way, and divers other valuable writings promoting vital Chriſtianity.

12. For affording ample opportunities of exerciſing in practice that holy diſcipline, which had been very beautiful in ſpeculation.

13. For deliverance from compotations.

14. For enabling to take up the croſs in the righteous preference of the ſpiritual ſtudies, and ſetting limits to the natural.

A Prayer.

Lord, purge from hypocriſy: give more life, leſs of words!

Mortify the beſtial appetite in drinking and eating!

Eſtabliſh in moderation in my natural ſtudies!

Give leſs fondneſs of this life!

Preſerve from riches, and the ſnares thereof!

Help my feeble faith, and languid love and fear!

Give to fulfil my vow, and to pay my arrears in the church!

Breathe holineſs on my natural ſtudies!

25. Sol. From the earthly riches, to be deſpiſed and made ſervants of, aſcend to the

heavenly, even to an increaſe of faith, love, and of the holy filial fear.

29. Yeſterday's botanick walk gave peace and delight upon reflection, even as a teſtimony againſt the idle ſons of Æſculapius in this city immerſed in ſloth and ſenſuality.

SIXTH MONTH 1770.

2. Held our monthly conference: my brother hath more conſolation than I, and no wonder; for he works much harder.

4. I am weak and ſtupid; but, Lord, doth not thy ſpirit help our infirmities?

8. O the difficulty of dying daily, even in putting in practice that golden precept, [1] *Omnem crede diem tibi diluxiſſe ſupremum*; and in this very inſtance appears the neceſſity of crying out, God help!

9. The rapidity of the approach of night conſidered, determined me to a ſober proſecution of digeſting the labours of my youth, rejecting all new matters of curioſity, and withal, to give Jeruſalem the holy and righteous preference.

11. An increaſe of faith was impreſſed, and that of Abraham reviewed, as alſo that of the Proteſtant martyrs, in whom it was ſtronger than death.

[1] Think every day will be thy laſt.

12. The

12. The ſilent part of the meeting was ſweetly animated in the view of the ſublime tendency of the precept of Chriſt, Matth. v. 43. to the end, even to exalt and perfect our natures, in renewing the divine image in us.

17. Two watch-words. 1. "Behold the bridegroom cometh: trim thy lamp, and go forth to meet him." 2. I have been loaded with an unmerited ſeries of bleſſings, may I henceforward never murmur at any croſs occurrences.

18. Laid aſide conſultations on the epidemick diſeaſes, on principle, the ninth day above.

19. At yeſterday's meeting we were bleſſed in whetting one another up to church-duties.

21. Fruitful in nature, barren in grace; rich in the outward treaſure, poor in faith and love: Lord, increaſe my little ſtore!

21. O the deſolation impending! One of our two country meetings not furniſhed with our quarterly queries, perhaps neither.

23. The elders deſerted their proper charge of the youth, leaving it to women, novices, and children.

SEVENTH MONTH 1770.

1. At a ſilent meeting it was clear to me, that God is righteous in withdrawing the miniſtry, becauſe we have not obeyed its call to heavenly-mindedneſs, as in the caſe of the

vineyard deprived of the clouds, by reaſon of its barrenneſs.

Frappiſh on a vexatious call to an incurable.

2. I find no book ſo *à propos* to the ſtate of the church as the bible, even as affording conſolation in times of the greateſt diſtreſs, in a ſweet view of God's ſpecial Providences in paſt events, and in the prophecies of the future to the end of the world, and conſummation of all things to God's glory.

6. Take comfort, O my ſoul; for the ſpirit of party in religion is ſubſiding, and Chriſt hath aſſuredly many ſheep, not of our fold. The books lately publiſhed on the ſpiritual life are a proof of this, calling for thankfulneſs and joy: theſe, though few in number, in compariſon of the multitude of hypocrites and ſinners, are truly amiable: may I be their companion now and for ever!

Dinner bread and water.

11. The poor-ſide of the meeting ſhews more fervour, in their attendance at meetings, than the rich and gay.

Trouble from an incongruous prayer: diſcharged my conſcience.

13. A ſweet ſong on Chriſt in the night.

18. Now lies the fifth corps in the houſe where I live, ſince the year 1763.

19. We cry out greatly againſt robbers and defrauders; but who among us hath not robbed God of the honour due to him, more

or

or leſs? Wherefore let us no more exult, but humble ourſelves.

24. Some defect in complaiſance to the poor patients.

26. A certain ſaint makes his very buſineſs a ſacrifice to the Lord.

QUEST. What is mine?

ANSW. I think uſefulneſs hath been my view: Lord, raiſe above all ſelfiſh views of either honour or profit: may I covet no honour, but what comes from thee!

27. The meeting was well animated miniſterially: verily, the divine goodneſs is miraculous and adorable, in thus wooing ſinners.

EIGHTH MONTH 1770.

4. Opens my monthly retreat.

Lord, I hear thy voice in the preſent gracious diſpenſations of thy Providence, viz. 1. In my preſent premeditated happy retirement. 2. In weaning from the world, by embittering all publick aſſociations and converſations by hardneſs of hearing; and, 3. By an almoſt perpetual catarrh, impairing my ſmell and taſte. 4. By the death of my acquaintance, whilſt a young generation are eſtranged from me. 5. By more novelties ariſing in nature than I can poſſibly attend to. 6. By loathing the wickedneſs of the world, and the hypocriſy of profeſſors. 7. By my drawing to a concluſion of my labours in nature.

8. By affording a ſufficiency for the outward man, and ſo exempting from all corroding cares and ſolicitude.

10. Some ſons of Belial had proclaimed an aſſociation on the day devoted to divine worſhip; but my brother prevented it, by a timely application to the lord mayor.

24. A remonſtrance againſt races on the firſt day of the week was publiſhed.

25. On the arrival of ſome foreign miniſters, a great concourſe: but do not theſe prefer the ſervants to the maſter, while they neglect to ſit as Mary at Jeſus's feet in our ſilent meetings?

26. A ſilent meeting, with a conſiderable multitude: pitied ſuch as have no food but words.

28. A ſecret ſupport under a certain conſiderable provocation in unrighteous uſage.

29. Some church-viſits performed in company (in which exerciſe my brother improves) ſhewing their uſefulneſs.

31. O my barrenneſs in regard to the youth in the men's meeting.

NINTH MONTH 1770.

1. More meekneſs is wanting; alſo more retirement to the country.

Holineſs and God's preſence to be witneſſed in the natural ſtudies; for he is the God of nature

nature as well as grace. See Coloſſ. i. 16, 17.

2. Take courage! Two inſtances of profit from my adminiſtration; wherefore, go on to exhort and reprove with all long-ſuffering.

7. Frappiſh on a croſs call: O the ſlowneſs of the work of ſanctification!

11. The reigning petition is, Strengthen my weakneſs, and ſweeten my ſourneſs, God of all power and love!

11. At the diſcipline-meeting diſcharged my conſcience, on occaſion of certain ſpurious appearances in the miniſtry, with a concurrence in the brethren: bleſſed be the Lord, that we are not ſplit into parties.

16. A ſweet and moſt pertinent prayer for the mourners, and for the youth.

21. Sore eyes: Lord, I kiſs thy rod as a gentle chaſtiſement, and means of weaning from vehemence in natural ſtudies.

25. The doſe of ſpirits too large, heating in the night.

30. In the night, ſome view of the reſt prepared for the people of God, and the expediency of a proper preparation for it, by a temporary ſuſpenſion of reading and writing.

Tenth Month 1770.

3. Held our monthly conference: we hope we are on the high road to the everlaſting ſabbath.

They

They proclaim four faſts in the year for the revival of the holy cauſe.

At our medical convention ſome real profit, but with a mixture of ungodly jokes; I fear I countenanced them too much: muſt we go out of the world to fly from its contagion?

14. Grace prevailed over nature in the exerciſes of this day.

16. Rejoiced greatly in the ſpread of vital Chriſtianity, in the republication of Brother Lawrence's Account of his Communion with God: ſurely they ſhall come from the Eaſt and the Weſt, and ſit down with Abraham, Iſaac, and Jacob.

16. The tempter was overcome yeſterday and to day.

20. We naturaliſts can teſtify, that the earth, air, and water, are full of God's glory: and O, how devout ought the anatomiſt to be, who is daily tracing the footſteps of divine wiſdom and goodneſs?

26. Kept from meeting by a patient, but meditation in ſome ſort ſupplied the defect.

ELEVENTH MONTH 1770.

1. I want help every day over my infirmities, and ſo find it neceſſary to cry, Lord, help!

Senſible

Senſible of God's ſpecial love to me in ſeveral inſtances, in drawing off from, and leſſening, certain temporal concerns.

Senſible of my arrears in attending province-meetings, and I fear I am too eaſy under it.

4. Opened the animated and animating pages of Baxter's Call to the Unconverted.

7. Look to our ſtate eccleſiaſtical, political, medical, and to that of the *Beau-monde*, and love them if thou canſt: however, remember, that he who is higher than the higheſt ſeeth all theſe things, and thou ſhalt be quiet, he being thy refuge and hiding-place.

HARMONY of the OLD and NEW TESTAMENT in relation to BABYLON.

Hiſtory.	Myſtery.
1. "Babylon hath a golden cup, that hath made all the earth drunk: the nations have drank of her wine, and therefore they are mad." Jer. li. 7.	1. "I will ſhew thee the judgment of the great whore that ſits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth have committed whoredom, and the inhabitants have been drunk by the wine of her whoredom. She had a golden cup in her hand, full of the abomina-
"Babylon is fallen, is fallen, and all the images of her gods hath he broken to the ground." Iſa. xxi. 9.	tions

Hiſtory.

2. "Thou who dwelleſt by many waters, thy end is come." Jer. li. 13.

3. "Thou ſaidſt, I ſhall be a lady for ever: I ſhall not ſit as a widow, nor know the loſs of children." Iſa. xlvii. 7, 8.

4. "Flee out of the midſt of Babylon, and deliver every man his ſoul: be not cut off in her iniquity." Jer. li. 6.

5. "The wild beaſts of the deſart ſhall dwell there, and owls, and ſatyrs ſhall dance there." Iſa. xiii. 21.

6. "Thou ſhalt tie a ſtone to the book of the prophecy, and

Myſtery.

tions and uncleanneſs of her whoredom." Rev. xvii. 1, 2. 4.

2. "The waters where the whore ſits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues." Rev. xvii. 15.

3. "She ſaith in her heart, I ſit a queen, and am no widow, and ſhall ſee no ſorrow." Rev. xviii. 7.

4. "Come out of her my people, that you may not partake of her ſins, and that ye may not receive of her plagues." Rev. xviii. 4.

5. "Babylon is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every unclean ſpirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird." Rev. xviii. 2.

6. "A mighty angel took a ſtone like a great mill-ſtone, and caſt

Hiſtory.	Myſtery.
caſt it into the midſt of Euphrates, and ſay, Thus ſhall Babylon ſink, and not riſe." Jer. li. 63, 64.	caſt it into the ſea, ſaying, Thus with violence ſhall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and not be found at all any more." Rev. xviii. 21.
7. " Then the heaven and the earth, and all that is therein, ſhall ſing for Babylon." Jer. li. 48.	7. " Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apoſtles and prophets, for God hath avenged you on her." Rev. xviii. 20.

12. It was near the thirty-ninth year of my age before I had juſt conceptions of the nature of this life; but, ſince that time, I was enlightened, and ſaw it as a ſcene of ſorrows, infirmities, and ſins; nor had I, before this period, a conception of Chriſt Jeſus as my redeemer and advocate: Long did a gracious God bear with me, even until the renewal of my covenant with him after my ſickneſs in 1754, ſince which time he hath poured down his bleſſings on me, in favouring me with opportunities of reading the ſcriptures, and divers ſpiritual experimental writers; and moreover alſo, with opportunities of converſing with ſeveral living patterns of genuine piety, and incentives thereunto: " Bleſs the Lord, O my ſoul, and all that is within me, bleſs

bleſs his holy name: he hath not rewarded according to my ſins, nor recompenſed me according to my iniquities," as the Pſalmiſt alſo ſaid.

17. Some errors were lately publiſhed concerning water; on which occaſion reviewed ſome former labours, which proved of ſignal uſe. Surely the Author of Nature vouchſafeth to open ſome of its myſteries to the diligent enquirer.

25. A fear leſt the hedge ſhould be taken away, as well as the clouds removed from our ſpiritual vineyard. Lord, preſerve me from being acceſſary hereunto!

I read the animated pages of Baxter in his Call to the Unconverted: Lord, give me a little of his holy fire!

27. At the poorer ſide of the meeting, there is an earlier attendance, as well as a greater number, than at the rich. So formerly, "Not many rich, &c. but God choſe the poor of this world, rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom."

29. More vigilance is wanting.

TWELFTH MONTH 1770.

1. A ſweet power drawing up higher than nature, a day of love and humiliation placing me in my own eyes far below the leaſt faithful miniſter.

3. A moſt uſeful and important query in Baxter, 'Is heaven or earth uppermoſt in thy thoughts?'

4. On the ſearching into nature what will make hard water ſoft, the tranſition was eaſy to grace, thus: what will make a fierce man meek? Nor was the anſwer obſcure, viz. Lord, thou canſt do it, and therefore I will importune thee, as thou haſt commanded.

7. Made a promiſe to the Lord, who alſo gave grace to keep it.

8. A ſong in the night, which however was ſucceeded by ſome brittleneſs in the morning.

9. Two ſilent meetings; in the firſt I was humbled from a view of myſelf, and of the declenſion of the people: in the ſecond was raiſed up in a view of the dignity of our calling.

13. A ſilent meeting, and poorly attended; yet the holy fire was not extinct.

15. Solid ſatisfaction in helping the poor.

18. A good day of truſt in God, in theſe mournful times.

28. Obliged to diſcharge ſeveral patients, being unable to attend: leanneſs and barrenneſs natural and ſpiritual, with a cloudy atmoſphere.

First Month 1771.

1. Not yet ſlow to anger: O may this be an æra from whence my purification may be dated!

3. Held our monthly conference: an excellent hint, that all unprofitable thoughts are to be rejected.

21. A froſty day extinguiſhing the holy fire, eſpecially on that ſide of the meeting-houſe, where the richer and more delicate ſit.

23. Not one miniſter at the province meeting: two ſtriplings walked thither.

Are children to be our princes?

Ought not every man to teach his neighbour lamentation?

29. A ſpirit of integrity and holy oppoſition to bill-broking, bleſſed be the Lord!

Second Month 1771.

19. "Whether ye eat or drink, or whatſoever elſe ye do, do all to the glory of God," was ſweetly impreſſed in yeſterday's ſilent meeting, and now.

THIRD MONTH 1771.

5. The religious family-viſit dwindling to triennial, or none at all: Lord, look down, or we periſh!

At a ſilent meeting, methought the philoſopher's ſtone was given me, even converting afflictions (*v. g.* ſore eyes) to bleſſings, as weaning from inordinate reading.

9. Somewhat of a ſong in the night.

22. A ſilent meeting, but the fire in.

FOURTH MONTH 1771.

1. Seventy two $\frac{1}{11}$ years are now paſt; and how ſwiftly? But, O how ſwiftly alſo will the remainder paſs!

My father and mother died at an age far leſs advanced than mine.

9. At a ſilent meeting—A preſſure to a ſpiritual growth, and a ſenſe of God's love to me from my youth; and O my ſtupid heart, in being no more affected by the miracles of the Old Teſtament!

11. Held our monthly conference: neither my brother nor I are without infirmities, nor I without ſin: he has got the better of his brittleneſs: I begged him to pray for me.

12. A ſweet ſong in the night on the love of God to mankind.

16. A group of paupers rather overloading, on which occaſion ſome brittleneſs, through want of watchfulneſs.

17. Examined myſelf on the beatitudes in the fifth of Matthew; and found, that though, through divine bounty, I be poſſeſſed of ſome of them, yet that I am deficient, and that there is abundant room for improvement in ſeveral of them, if not in each: Lord, increaſe my little ſtore!

19. It was an awful truth publiſhed this day by a miniſter of low degree, viz. Did we love one another as we ought, we ſhould be more diligent in aſſembling together; therefore the reigning indifference herein is a mark of this badge of diſcipleſhip being defaced.

20. Opened a partial faſt, dining on bread and water, on account of the withdrawing of the clouds, with ſome mournful reflections.

22. Read a certain journal, and the compariſon of that life to mine was humbling; however, I was comforted under the conſideration, that in the heavenly building there are ſtepping-ſtones, as well as agates and carbuncles.

23. A good time at meeting, and an apoſtle there, who ſpoke on God's behalf, diſcharging Divine Providence of any deficiency on account of the preſent reigning complaint of the 'Badneſs of the preſent times,' a charge tacitly advanced by an idle ſet, who will not ſtrive to enter in at the ſtrait gate.

27. Want

27. Want of inwardneſs betrays itſelf at our meetings, in divers looking about to ſee who is here, and who is there.

28. More fruitfulneſs in converſation is wanting: more of Chriſt there, and leſs of of temporals.

Fifth Month 1771.

5. Concluded my account of the nature of our hard waters, miſrepreſented in a late production: God gave light into the ſubject.

10. A ſilent meeting, and ſweet in a view of the glory of the goſpel-day, and Chriſt far above Moſes, and an attraction to more meekneſs and love.

26. In the country: they cannot perform their religious viſit without foreign aid: O where is love!

Sixth Month 1771.

2. Neither men nor devils ſhall perſuade me, that I am not growing in grace.

As thou haſt been fruitful in nature, ſo now ſtrive to be ſo in grace.

4. The morning poor in ſpirituals, but in the afternoon a ſweet and more free acceſs to my Maker in the heavenly attraction: alſo, an heavenly exhortation.

7. After much labour in nature, the call ſeems to be, to reſt a little.

Miſcarried in an attempt to ſet up a religious aſſociation. Verily it is a poor world.

16. A miſerable chaſm at the afternoon meeting: ſurely the deſerters do not believe in the inward Teacher.

18. Sol. When a man comes to a degree of perfection in natural ſcience, he is ſuddenly taken off: ſurely this ſhould mitigate the ardour of our purſuits of any thing, except that of acceptance with God.

23. The ſtate of the church of Epheſus, Rev. ii. is our ſtate here: it remains, that we "repent, and do our firſt works, leſt the candleſtick be removed.

Dined with a ſaint, who, in his travels, generally worſhipped in every family.

25. A ſweet occurrence in a maſs-book, intituled, The Path to Paradiſe, where there is a collection, in one view, of twenty-ſeven petitions, truly appoſite and pertinent to the ſtate of almoſt every Chriſtian. Verily, I was ſurprized to find ſo much gold in a maſs-book.

At meeting, a ſweet raviſhing glimpſe of help from Chriſt in my prevailing infirmity of brittleneſs: I ſaw it was good, in ſcripture-language, to cry mightily to the Lord, not that he cannot hear a whiſper, but from an acute ſenſe of our wants.

Sol. The people that deſert ſilent meetings are in the ſpirit of the worſhippers of the Virgin

Virgin Mary, even in neglecting to ſit humbly at Jeſus's feet; though if any famous new preacher arrive, they go in crowds to hear him, thus preferring the miniſter, as the others do the Virgin, to the Eternal Son.

A. S. deceaſed; a great gap truly, and which God only can make up; and ſurely we his ſurvivors ought to ſupplicate the Lord of the harveſt on this account.

SEVENTH MONTH 1771.

1. Looked into Daniel and the Revelations with wonder, though many things there are left obſcure: but we are unworthy of more light; for indeed we are ſo little affected by the other clearer evidences of the truth of Chriſtianity, as to render us unworthy of more; and again, had all things been clear, where had been room for faith, and the trial of it?

4. At our monthly conference, I think my brother is humble; for he ſays, he hardly ſays or does any thing, but what, upon the review, might have been ſaid or done better.

10. A feaſt, in order to ſupport a certain branch of our medical profeſſion, but with very little effect; alſo it was with a people of unclean lips, and I thought I was ſullied thereby.

12. At an almoſt deſerted ſilent meeting, where no miniſter but the Lord Jeſus, which

was

was enough for me: for I ſaw that his commands are exceeding broad, particularly two. 1. The ſetting heaven above earth. 2. Keeping unſpotted from the world.

20. Opens a faſt-day for the withdrawing of the clouds. Lord, what wilt thou do for thy great name?

ANSW. 1. View the ſtate of the church through various ages to the preſent time, as recorded in the ſcriptures, our faith and patience muſt be tried. There is undoubtedly a God who ruleth all things, and directeth the iſſue of all to his own glory: let him be our refuge: to adore, not to know much, is our province: verily, we are but purblind in nature, and much more ſo in the myſteries of of grace and providence. 2. The vineyard, though often watered, hath brought forth wild grapes, and therefore it is but juſt that the clouds ſhould be withdrawn. 3. Some glimmerings of hope appear in a young generation. 4. Chriſt hath many ſheep not of our fold: but ſtill, O our barrenneſs with regard to the children, *v. g.* ſituated yeſterday as ſheep without a ſhepherd.

25. Poſſeſſed my ſoul in ſweetneſs and thankfulneſs.

EIGHTH MONTH 1771.

2. Held our monthly conference: our ſouls harmonize in the proſpect of approaching

ing death, and in complaining, that we are not enough alive in this exercise, but stand in need, even on this account, of help superior to our own.

A little nearer access in evening prayer.

6. O my soul, from the riches and honours of this world, do thou ascend to the honour that cometh from God only, and to an increase of the heavenly riches of faith, love, and other gifts of the spirit.

7. Grace gains ground in the holy preference of spirituals to naturals, blessed be the Lord.

12. The little spiritual book, exhibiting a text and short comment for every day in the year, has borne fifteen editions: surely, here is a spiritual taste among the people.

17. A memorable call: a slight hemiplegia in tottering limbs, and a faultering tongue.

21. The paralytick disease increases.

Ninth Month 1771.

14. On a blister, and a confinement of three weeks, sensibly better.

22. An acquiescence in, and thankfulness for, the present awful dispensation of Providence in this my seventy-third year nearly complete. Surely the time for rest is now come, and of cessation from practice, except in the chamber, and chiefly for the poor: for, 1. Natural strength fails. 2. The bride-

groom's

groom's voice is heard. 3. If the Lord will, there remain natural works requiring a review and improvement.

27. Dull, croſs, and weak: greatly refreſhed by lying down.

TENTH MONTH 1771.

6. Prepared a paper for the Freeman's Journal, on detecting ſome errors about diſtilled waters.

12. Purſued my mattin in meditation, in ſympathy with the church now convened, and purpoſed to continue it as preſent in ſpirit, though abſent in body.

12. and 17. Squabbles, wherein I found it expedient to ſuffer wrong.

21. Some clearer light on Bath-water.

22. Parallel between authors and preachers: both proceed upon a ſuppoſition of others being leſs knowing, or leſs virtuous than themſelves; but if this ſhould not be the caſe, they both would better be ſilent; on the other hand, by publiſhing and preaching they obey the Lord's precept, "So let your light ſhine," &c. Thoſe who make a trade of either preaching or printing by ſubſcription, frequently rob the people of their money. 3. The beſt of both claſſes are often thankleſs and pennyleſs; yet, God is their rewarder, if they have acted upon a principle of love to their neighbour. 4. But, ſuppoſe honour or riches ſhould be

be the conſequence of the labours of either: they certainly would be in danger; for it is ſaid, "How can ye believe, who receive honour from one another, and not that honour which cometh from God only?" And as to riches, it is pronounced by the ſame lip, that it is almoſt as hard for them to enter the kingdom, as what is impoſſible; and it is ſaid on the other hand, that "God hath choſen the poor of this world, rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom," even in preference to the rich, noble, and mighty.

24. The precept of preſenting our bodies a living ſacrifice renewed, even in the communion of the ſaints, the faithful remnant, the church militant upon earth, as helps to one another.

28. Where is the rich dwelling of the Word, and "teaching and admoniſhing one another in hymns, and pſalms, and ſpiritual ſongs, making melody in our hearts to the Lord?" We children had our evening meetings in houſes.

31. John Gill deceaſed, a bleſſed man to me, though a rank predeſtinarian. His comments inſtructive and animated.

ELEVENTH MONTH 1771.

3. An illumination on the apoſtle's words: "In this we groan earneſtly, deſiring to be cloathed upon with our houſe, which is from heaven,

heaven, knowing, that whilſt we are at home in the body, we are abſent from the Lord." Now this groaning is a ſtep far beyond me; yet ſhall I ſay, I will preſs after it, ſo help me, Lord; for indeed I am too fond of this life.

5. Faith ran high: methought, God will tread Satan under my feet ſhortly; accordingly went to the anniverſary meeting under ſome difficulty.

The appearances there were mournful, addreſſed chiefly to ſandy builders, and to Phariſees, even among the firſt rank, to whom wo was denounced.

7. Heavy complaints of the auditory from the miniſtry continued: but heark ye, what have the children done? Is there no room for ſpeaking to them? Doth not our Lord encourage it? And are they not in fact the beſt of auditories? My exerciſe in this way is quite interrupted: Lord, if it be thy will, reſtore and raiſe up others!

10. and 11. A ſlight diarrhœa, and probably ſalutiferous: bleſſed be that wiſdom and goodneſs which has framed the machine, ſo as to throw off what is noxious.

14. New light appears in the hydrology; and I am now convinced, that I can do more good in the preſent retirement, by reviſing former labours and writings, than by going among the ſick, which indeed I am not able to do.

16. The

16. The watch-word was; 'O the heighth and extent of our profeſſion as a diſtinguiſhed ſociety!'

17. The call is, to more indifference in naturals.

18. In great weakneſs got out to meeting with the few, and my faith was a little ſtrengthened. Pitied ſome of the young people during the ſilence.

19. The doſe of the drink too large.

23. Unrighteouſly croſs: I ſee clearly that it is for want of watchfulneſs.

25. In the night, an attraction to more heavenly mindedneſs and fruitfulneſs in grace, than in nature: went out accordingly, and heard a living teſtimony againſt formalists.

TWELFTH MONTH. 1771.

1. A bleſſed day: an humble hope of the deſcent of the ſpirit as a dove, and of a limited regard to naturals, grace triumphing over nature; and I ſaw clearly, that the time for reſt is come, after a good deal of labour; and now remains the chief concern, a proper preparation for a tranſlation, and the temporals to be tranſacted with a holy calmneſs and due ſubordination, the earth being kept under feet. Amen!

22. 1. Habakkuk ii. 1. An excellent repreſentation of ſpiritual worſhip.

26. Opened my ſeventy-fourth year: walked to the meeting (contrary to late cuſtom) where advices appoſite to the youth were read, and God ſtrengthened to ſpeak, beyond expectation. Adminiſtered a word of admonition to a brother. Lord, give a door of entrance!

27. Read my father's letter 1725, by which I find that he alſo retired from buſineſs, on principle, a while before his death; a ſingular bleſſing.

28. Reviewed my account of waters with wonderful improvement: Lord, ſpiritualize and ſanctify my naturals!

First Month 1772.

28. A quarrel in the houſe: I purchaſed peace, by giving up my right.

30. A diſtreſſing account: the meeting poſtpones its proper buſineſs, until foreign aid arrive from the miniſtry: O, where is the ſpirit of elderſhip!

Second Month 1772.

6. At our monthly conference. My brother has now and then a rapture: a little ſong of this ſort is all that falls to my ſhare.

10. O, what indulgence! Ten hours in the twenty-four half dead, or ſleeping.

13. and

13. and 26. A ſenſible advancement in victory over the ſin that uſed ſo eaſily to beſet me.

THIRD MONTH 1772.

3. Croſs accidents proved my weakneſs, not without an alloy of ſin: how long, O Lord, holy and true, ſhall this ferocity ſtick by me!

5. The youth's meeting reviving, contrary to human expectation, adored be divine goodneſs!

6. An honeſt ſtruggle between light and darkneſs, and light often gains ground.

9. Kept from meeting by the rain; however, kept up the devotion of the day in ſympathy with the church.

10. Diſtributed ſimples into claſſes, a work more uſeful, and more beautiful, than planting trees in the quincunx order.

Sol. O my ſoul, why diſquieted at trifles? Surely, here is ſomething of inſolence: view the ſufferings of the martyrs, and, above all, thoſe of thy Lord.

In the clear viſion, ſaw that my brittleneſs is the meer genuine effect of inordinate ſelf-love: Lord, purge!

30. Sol. Is not that ſtate of the elders a very pitiful one, where they are little more than executioners or excommunicators, but have very little heart to comfort the feeble-

minded, ſupport the weak, or inſtruct the ignorant?

FOURTH MONTH 1772.

13. God gave ſtrength to diſcharge my conſcience againſt mock-mourners, but they ſeem incorrigible.

At a ſilent meeting, a preſſure towards the meek ſpirit, and putting on the new man.

On a retroſpection on ſome labours in the elderſhip, they appear to have been not altogether fruitleſs.

14. Vociferation too loud to my ſervant.

30. The Chriſtian traveller is got beyond me, even to the perfect love which caſteth out fear.

FIFTH MONTH 1772.

2. A ſilent meeting for the moſt part, though a foreign miniſter preſent, who uttered this memorable ſentence: 'I am cautious of drawing out the minds of the people from Chriſt, the inward Teacher; an attendance upon whom it is good to encourage both by precept and example.'

9. The ſtruggle with my natural ferocity ſtill continues; but yet on the ſucceſsful ſide.

15. A degree of the genuine ſpirit of charity, as deſcribed by the apoſtle, ſeemed to

to prevail, on occaſion of a certain event and trial of patience.

18. The imperfections of natural ſcience daily appear: Lord, lift up my heart in the holy preference of the heavenly!

25. Grace reigns: a degree of hope bordering on aſſurance of a real progreſs.

26. A family-viſit: it was good to be there.

27. A ſacrifice of praiſe at a ſilent meeting for my preſent happy ſituation, viz. In exemption from the temptations attending company. 2. From the cares about and diſtreſſes of the ſick. 3. For the opportunity of preparing to meet the bridegroom. 4. For the reviſal and improvement of my former labours in nature. 5. For the exerciſe of patience with the bookſellers. 6. For ſomething of a revival in the family-viſit.

SIXTH MONTH 1772.

4. Six patients outdoing my patience: this is for want of a higher degree of love to my neighbour.

8. Negotiated the family-viſit under conſiderable diſcouragements.

At a ſilent meeting: "Prepare to meet the bridegroom," was the word.

9. A viſit to a poor family to ſatisfaction, as often happens.

13. Hydrology was purſued, in which purſuit, "Day unto day uttereth ſpeech;" however, Jeruſalem was honeſtly preferred.

18. The diſcouragements attending the proſecution of the family viſits, is an exerciſe of patience and faith, the trial of which is more precious than that of gold.

19. On the deſertion of week-day meetings. The deſerters do not believe in the inward Teacher, and they love their worldly aſſociates more than their religious brethren.

SEVENTH MONTH 1772.

3. Feaſting on a firſt day declared againſt.

19. My preſent ſlow and limited procedure in inveſtigations in nature proves really the moſt ſucceſsful: "Great are thy works, O Lord, and in wiſdom haſt thou made them all:" we ſee a little of thy ſkirts, but enough to make us love and adore.

29. At a ſilent meeting, a pleaſing conſciouſneſs that Jeruſalem hath been preferred this week paſt.

31. A remote glimpſe of the glory, majeſty, and adorable bounty of Chriſt as God-man.

EIGHTH MONTH 1772.

A spurious ministry discouraged and suppressed; at the same time saw that now, as formerly, God hath passed by the letter-learned, and preferred babes.

Held our monthly conference: we are not without infirmities, and I not without sin, particularly in that which easily besets, viz. Quickness to anger; however, the holy struggle must be maintained.

3. Dragging work in negotiating the family-visit: so much the more glorious the conflict.

4. Labour and sorrow is my lot, on account of our poor state, both ecclesiastical and medical.

24. The youth's meeting intermitted: Lord, I look to thee, who art able to animate the stones of the street.

26. A blessed meeting in the ministry: the word most pertinently and wisely adapted.

NINTH MONTH 1772.

3. At our monthly conference—We find room for a growth in grace still, and are humbled under a sense of our defects.

25. O our stupidity in regard to God's love to us even in nature, and above that, in the gift of his Son!

TENTH

TENTH MONTH 1772.

5. Humbly hoped that God hath limited me in my natural ſtudies, but I ſee a neceſſity of being yet more looſened.

18. Great tranquillity and thankfulneſs.

24. Seven patients with patience, and a due regard to the devotion of the day, bleſſed be the Lord: So Lord, ſweeten and ſtrengthen!

ELEVENTH MONTH 1772.

16. A viſit alone to the women's meeting, on occaſion of a jealouſy of ſome frequenting places of diverſion.

25. Surely the following aſpiration granted, is the very ſummit of Chriſtian perfection, viz. "My beloved is mine, and I am his."

30. A viſit performed in the evening in the croſs, in which we were ſignal helps to each other.

TWELFTH MONTH 1772.

9. At meeting, a great deſertion: ſurely infidelity reigns: ſurely there is a better country.

12. At

12. At our monthly conference: catched a little of the heavenly fire from the ſuperior fervour of my brother.

15. Some ſinful perverſeneſs in the morning, for which I was humbled at a ſubſequent meeting.

First Month 1773.

9. and 10. My faith was ſtrengthened at a ſilent meeting, but the neceſſity of watchfulneſs and prayer was impreſſed.

22. A religious viſit to a play-haunter.

25. A ſecret hope of ſome little advancement in meekneſs.

27. The day began and ended well, even in the triumph of grace above nature under the croſs, and at a ſilent meeting a ſweet attraction of my heavenly Father.

28. A religious viſit in concert to a Laodicean, wherein we were helps to one another.

Second Month 1773.

3. At a ſilent meeting, a ſenſe of what Chriſt, the green Tree, ſuffered, in compariſon of what befals us dry ones, viz. Contempt, reviling, and perſecution, even from Bethlehem to Mount Calvary.

10. A glimpſe of further ſervice in ſeveral religious, occaſional voluntary viſits.

15. Brit-

15. Brittleneſs and impatience ſtill drive to ſeek ſuperior help.

17. A renewal of faith, that the power and kingdom of darkneſs totters.

Impatience is the daughter of inſolence and pride.

THIRD MONTH 1773.

1. A preſſure to a more cloſe ſenſe of the divine preſence in my temporals, according to Brother Lawrence.

A ſample of unſelfiſhneſs in our miniſtry: 'I covet not to be heard in words, but to call the idle and wanderers to their duty.'

8. Drawn to the ſpiritual water within (of which Chriſt ſpoke to the woman of Samaria) a ſolid reality, as much as the natural water, which has been the object of my ſtudy, even in its cleanſing, ſweetening, ſtrengthening, and refreſhing operations.

O, what care, what toils and travels in inveſtigating nature, to which thoſe reſpecting grace bore no proportion, particularly in getting the meek and quiet ſpirit, to which I aſpire! Lord, help!

17. A dull proſpect of our ſpiritual ſtate; but God is my refuge.

24. Good news from the North: two ſpiritual youths, help meets to me in ſpreading Brother Lawrence, a ſheep of Chriſt, though not of our fold.

FOURTH

FOURTH MONTH 1773.

3. A ſweet day in nature and grace: the beauty of the law of love was viewed and delighted in.

9. Our elders pertinently and zealouſly proteſt againſt certain publick irregularities attendant on our meetings for divine worſhip. Uſeful improvements in nature, though not attended with the glare and glitter of gold.

11. At a ſilent meeting—Aſtoniſhed at divine goodneſs ſtill continued through a long ſeries of years, in moderating my quickneſs to anger, not yet quite overcome.

14. A religious viſit, in concert, to no purpoſe, but diſcharging our conſciences.

15. An agreeable event: the catechiſing the children now, after above a year and an half's intermiſſion, through infirmity of body, reſumed on principle, viz. Believing the young plants to be more ſuſceptible of good impreſſions than the old ones.

26. An humbling review of my Diary in 1759; yet not without a ſenſe of divine favour.

27. Belated at meeting from a little attachment to nature beyond the holy bounds.

FIFTH

Fifth Month 1773.

1. Crabbed.

A ſecret whiſper that I muſt "Strive to enter," or, in other terms, 'Cry mightily.'

3. The miniſtry ſhut up morning and afternoon. This ſilence may be a wholeſome diſcipline to itching ears.

13. An agreeable event: a ſchool opened for the Blacks in America.

21. Our barrenneſs, with reſpect to the youth, is deplorable.

23. At a ſilent meeting: the circumciſion of the heart, and putting off the old man, impreſſed: ſeemed to have nearer acceſs, and dropt a tear, a rarity.

28. Celebrated my anniverſary: the query was, how haſt thou kept thy vow made nineteen years ago?

Answ. I hope I have in ſome good degree kept it, and preferred Jeruſalem; but ſtill I am not heavenly enough.

Sixth Month 1773.

4. A little crabbed with two incurables.

8. A half-faſt eſtabliſhed once a week. Meeting ſilent, but ſweet.

12. At the youth's meeting we were a help to each other, and ſtood by the holy cauſe, bleſſed be the Lord!

13. The

13. The meeting ſilent, but half deſerted: the fire indeed not out, but under the aſhes.

19. Two ſilent meetings; at the firſt very heavy, and even ſleepy; but the afternoon brighter, with this prayer: Lord, inſpire with a greater degree of love to my neighbour, and leſs to myſelf!

26. Now finiſhed the fair tranſcript of my *Materia medica*, the principal work of my life; a work of no preſent advantage to me, but I hope will prove ſo to others: but ſtill, this is far inferior to the ſpiritual medicines, and the labours in the goſpel, as body is to ſoul, and earth to heaven. Lord, grant to purſue theſe matters in the holy ſubordination!

Exerciſed a little ſabbath on this occaſion.

SEVENTH MONTH 1773.

1. A ſenſe of impending danger in natural purſuits.

6. A letter from a correſpondent, repreſenting the miſerable defection of the puritans, with a holy jealouſy over our ſociety.

Held our monthly conference: my brother affirms, that on juſt provocation he pities the offender, and mourns for him: Lord, give me this grace alſo!

30. Poor in ſpirit at a ſilent meeting, yet not dead.

EIGHTH MONTH 1773.

2. The optick tremours came on, and I feared I ſhould not attend the ſecond meeting; but God ſtrengthened.

10. I find my proſperity and ſafety to have been in littleneſs.

15. At a ſilent meeting—A delightful view of the beauty of the eſtabliſhment of 'watching over one another for good,' and ſome duties in occaſional viſits pointed out.

17. A diſmal view of the effeminacy of the age, as repreſented in the London Magazine.

19. Regarded the day as an anniverſary of thankſgiving, being two years ſince my paralytick ſtroke; bleſſed years, even years of ſequeſtration from worldly cares and temptations, years of bodily weakneſs, yet ſome degree of ſtrength returning with the fine weather, the upper region pretty clear, a ſingular favour of Providence enabling me to reviſe and improve my former labours. Thus fruitful in nature in old age, grant to me more fruitfulneſs in grace, and, good Lord, prepare for the heavenly city!

23. Both meetings ſilent: a ſort of horrid proſpect.

Lord, give more of thy preſence in my naturals! and breathe holineſs on our ſocial duties: we are born helpleſs, and all along dependent on one another.

NINTH

Ninth Month 1773.

11. Went to meeting in the wet, and ſupplied the place of a gap-ſtopper.

Not yet arrived to ſlowneſs of anger.

14. Cloudy weather diſpoſed to ſleep at a ſilent meeting, but the fire was not extinguiſhed.

12. and 13. Bad uſage, with juſt remonſtrances: but the apoſtle ſaith, "Rejoice in tribulations," and conſequently in all croſſes, even as trials of faith and patience more precious than gold.

18. At meeting—A comforting hope that God will clothe with the meek and quiet ſpirit.

20. O poor Dublin! I pity thee and thy youth; yet a ſecret hope attends, that there is ſomething of a harveſt among them.

Tenth Month 1773.

6. Held our monthly conference, and beheld the ſuperior zeal of the extra-pale brethren in appointing overſeers of their ſick and poor, to adminiſter ſpiritual as well as natural relief, which we egregiouſly want.

12. Winter comes on rapidly, as in nature, ſo in the church.

16. A ſilent meeting, but luminous, and three acts of duty pointed out.

18. Lent a ſpiritual book to a tyro. Both meetings ſilent, but animated by the hope of a real progreſs.

ELEVENTH MONTH 1773.

3. Some hundreds of people at meeting, and not one ſong! Lord, thou art my refuge!

11. Good ſpiritual news from the South, and I hope the remnant will ſtill be preſerved alive.

23. Read John Woolman: verily it was as the dew of heaven, though in unpoliſhed phraſe.

25. O my barrenneſs in reference to a young diſciple!

29. An exerciſe of patience, and means of weaning from temporal expectations; money required to be given, inſtead of being received, for publiſhing the principal labour of my life.

TWELFTH MONTH 1773.

1. O the time ſpent in bed! even near twelve hours, and hitherto ſcarce avoidable!

4. A certain book, tending to the promotion of real domeſtick piety, finds vent here in this ſinful city in London; wherefore it ſeems to appear, that there is ſtill (amidſt all our treſpaſſes and follies) a precious remnant left of perſons we do not think of.

6. A

6. A bleſſed day, though both meetings ſilent; the viſion was clear and humbling, and ſome good impreſſions received.

8. My long-continued prayer for meekneſs in ſome degree anſwered: [1] *Nemo repente fit turpiſſimus*, and *vice verſa*, was ſweetly applied.

11. Heaven above earth to-day; and yet purſued hydrology with great ſucceſs.

15. Held our monthly conference: my brother's chief object is the ſoul, mine the body; but God is the framer of both.

25. Seventy-five years are now paſt: opens the ſeventy-ſixth a day of mercy and bounty, health of body and mind, bleſſed tranquillity and leiſure, devoted, I hope, to good purpoſes.

First Month 1774.

26. Two incentives to more ſpiritual induſtry. 1. Bad examples, in lukewarm profeſſors coming late to meetings. 2. Living good examples of my betters in zeal and vigilance.

25. Eight patients beyond my fund of patience.

[1] No man becomes notoriouſly bad all at once.

SECOND MONTH 1774.

3. New labourers appear to take care of the reputation of the ſociety, bleſſed be the Lord!

16. Twenty years hath the Lord given thee to repent, and thou art not yet quite clean, as appeared by brittleneſs on provocation.

28. At a ſilent meeting—"If thou ſeek the Lord, he will be found of thee," ſweetly impreſſed.

THIRD MONTH 1774.

2. My infirmity hangs on me; my brother tells me, I muſt agonize, in order that I may enter.

6. Now finiſhed, and digeſted my Collections on Waters for ſixteen years paſt.

8. Read the heart-ſearching pages of Mead's Almoſt Chriſtian.

12. A view of the imperfections of ſcience, and of God's myſterious adorable diſpenſations.

14. O for more of the divine preſence in my natural ſtudies!

25. Saw my lot as an elder, even in little, trite matters, falling properly under the cognizance of elders as ſuch, who are greatly deficient in their duties.

28. Not

28. Not meer heaven to be ſought, but a fitneſs for the company there.

FOURTH MONTH 1774.

8. Held our monthly conference: there is a harmony in our ſentiments, and in the travel of our ſouls: though we are yet attended with infirmities.

10. The review of paſt labours in nature is pleaſant, having been devoted to the good of my neighbour.

25. All murmuring at croſs events to be excluded, according to that ſaying in Job; "The Lord hath given, the Lord hath taken away, bleſſed be the name of the Lord!"

FIFTH MONTH 1774.

1. A ſweet ſelect meeting, and a little revival in the South.

10. Crabbed on occaſion: look to Jeſus, on whom the ſpirit deſcended as a dove, and who ſaid, "Learn of me, for I am meek and lowly."

26. The paſt year has been a year of favour, giving opportunity of reviſing former labours.

I am now as a limb diſjointed from the body of the church, in reference to her wholeſome and amiable diſcipline, inevitably kept from

from their conferences by the ſtate of my ears and limbs, yet willing to do what ſervice I can.

28. A good degree of temper on occaſion.

SIXTH MONTH 1774.

1. An eclairciſſement on a vulgar error about hard water.

2. The doſe of the drink too large.

5. This earth or world, in the new language, is called 'A dunghill.'

7. and 8. A very fruitful day in the diſcovery of truths in hydrology.

15. A ſweet whiſper, that God will hear my petition for freedom from quickneſs to anger.

22. Jeruſalem took the lead.

24. Rejoiced at the elders coming forward in their duties.

SEVENTH MONTH 1774.

7. Hydrology, with amazing ſucceſs.

9. I was drawn to rejoice in little croſſes. The meeting miniſterially animated: O, what "Line upon line," &c.! Surely Capernaum's fate will be ours, except we repent.

14. O bleſſed ſequeſtration from worldly cares, which I now enjoy!

EIGHTH

EIGHTH MONTH 1774.

9. The miniſters have ſpoken, but thou haſt done more, viz. Written. O ſtand in awe of thy pen!

14. Naturals gave way to ſpirituals, and did not ſuffer thereby.

22. Walked on in the narrow way.

23. The work of viſiting is very laborious, the harveſt great, and the labourers few: Lord, ſend forth more!

NINTH MONTH 1774.

6. A laborious day, wherein the preference was given to the holy cauſe, bleſſed be the Lord!

7. A ſilent meeting, and the fire under the aſhes.

13. A glimmering hope of life in the men's meeting.

19. An enlarged view of the duties of elders as ſuch.

TENTH MONTH 1774.

8. Proceeded in the viſit, and had the ſatisfaction to find, that former labours had not proved altogether ineffectual.

10. The

10. The women had the cloſer ſhare of the work in the family-viſit.

29. At meeting; a cloſe ſelf-examination, as to moderation in natural ſtudies, and the reſult was pretty peaceable.

In the viſit we were ſignal helps to each other.

ELEVENTH MONTH 1774.

3. Crabbed on fatigue: ſoul, awake, and watch againſt this ſin that eaſily beſets.

12. Was not the Lord with me this morning in the hour of temptation?

16. God's ſingular bounty, now above twenty years ſince my eſpouſals, extended in giving ſpace to repent, and the work not yet completed; but an unſubdued ferocity remains to be my heart-ſore. Will not the Lord heal it on reiterated application? I truſt he will.

TWELFTH MONTH 1774.

2. The *Maraſmus Senilis* (emaciating effect of old age) is come: a deep hollow in my thigh.

3. Conſcious, that of late no fleſhly indulgence hath taken place: beware that it creep not on now in the days of infirmity, and fitting

ſitting by the fire; I dare not truſt my own heart.

8. The voice of God now ſounds louder in my great infirmity, of being ſcarcely able to bear the cold.——

——Here our author finiſhed his Diary, about four months before he finiſhed his courſe, and entered upon immortality. He died on the 27th of the 4th month 1775, in a very compoſed frame of ſpirit; and it is highly reaſonable to ſuppoſe, that a mind, ſo long accuſtomed to ſpiritual exerciſes, was not wanting to improve that ſhort intermediate time in a way ſuitable to the importance of his approaching change, of which he appears to have been duly ſenſible.

To what has been already ſaid of him in the introduction to this work, let it ſuffice to add in this place, that as none, who have tranſmitted an account of themſelves to the publick, ſeem to have executed it with a more conſcientious impartiality, ſo perhaps few lives thus handed down to us (if we may judge by the credible teſtimonies given to his character) will appear leſs reprehenſible in the ſight of men: but, however that may be, his conſtant watchfulneſs over his thoughts, words, and actions; the tenderneſs of his conſcience, and fear of offending in the moſt minute inſtances; and his pious concern for the honour of God, and the good of ſouls (which abundantly appear in the courſe of the preceding Diary) are certainly

certainly worthy of our imitation, and ſerve both to exemplify and recommend to our practical uſe that inſtructive leſſon contained in the following divine apophthegm: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wiſdom; a good underſtanding have all they that do thereafter; the praiſe of it endureth for ever."

7 AP 59

FINIS.